

CLASS WAR

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Capitalist crises, Sawant, the CWI and Trotskyism

When Trotsky in the last years of his life fought to defeat the degeneration of the Fourth International, he isolated the material basis of that degeneration - the ideological backwardness of the aristocratic layers of the working class bought off by imperialist super-profits. This was a variety of the same problem Marx and Engels recognized in the 1880s and Lenin blamed for the collapse and betrayal of the 2nd International in the face of the outbreak of imperialist war in August, 1914.

The weapons Trotsky used in his fight were the same as those used by Marx and Engels and Lenin, - the dialectical method and the Transitional Program to empower the masses to turn imperialist war into a revolutionary war. The method allowed the Bolsheviks to understand the contradictory dynamics of capitalism and the program for socialist revolution. But to activate this method and program an international party was necessary to test and develop the program in the heat of the class struggle. The degeneration of the Soviet Union and the Third International caused by capitulating to German fascism destroyed the international party. The Left Opposition became the 4th International in 1938, but was unable to displace the Stalinist parties among the masses (except in some colonies like Indo-China,) and was dominated by petty bourgeois intellectuals in the imperialist countries.

After Trotsky's assassination, the 4th International proved incapable of building a new world party and liquidated itself increasingly into opportunist and reformist currents. Today as imperialism reaches a new low point of global crisis, threatening to destroy both



Sewer Socialism and the Fight for a Poverty Wage

The pressures of bourgeois society even on ostensible socialists are enormous. Those engaging in opportunism in order to get elected by watering down or abandoning the Marxist political program are not likely to suddenly "swim against the stream" once elected. As has been shown by Hillquit, Berger and [Kubby in Iowa](#), the history of sewer socialism is that what municipal socialism does is get more sewers in order to make capitalism a little more bearable, not use the elected position as a platform for revolutionary propaganda and agitation, to attempt to mobilize the masses.

The petty-bourgeois, capitalist Green Party, which outdoes Sawant's "revolutionary" Socialist Alternative on the minimum wage by calling for a \$16.50 plus "livable" wage, has the same opportunistic methodology. Indeed, Sawant was endorsed by the [Seattle Green Party](#) and by [Jill Stein](#).

In San Jose, in the 1990's, the elected Greens in the city council laid off union municipal workers and contracted out their work...and defended this saying they were required by law to hire the lowest responsible bidder to perform city services. Because we look at the history of various leftist union reform move-

Will Nuclear Power Stop Climate Collapse?

Prominent climate change pioneer James Hansen and a number of others including Guardian journalist [George Monbiot](#) are now publicly advocating new nuclear power generation as the only viable solution to burning carbon. Yet we literally do not

have the time to debate the cost-effectiveness of Nuclear energy 60 even 20 years ahead. Climate collapse will have turned nuclear plants into nuclear disasters by then. We should be shutting down nuclear plants now if we are to survive as a civilisation. Socialists who reject this are not Eurocentric in denying the right of developing nations to get the benefits from cheap and plentiful energy. It is the environmentalists and [reformists](#) who think that capitalism can find a nuclear fix to climate change who delude themselves and the masses of the impoverished South. The evidence is clear that nuclear energy is potentially even more destructive of nature and society than burning carbon. The sun is the only nuclear plant which socialists should advocate as the source of our energy.

[Fort Calhoun nuclear facility in Nebraska was shut down when it flooded in July 2011 and remains shut down today](#)

Capitalists produce for profit no matter what the expense in terms of social and environmental damage. Any social progress under capitalism is due to working class struggle. That is why socialists never put their trust in capitalist solutions to social and environmental problems. The current structural crisis of capitalism is creating worsening global instability and threat of inter-imperialist war. In wars nuclear reactors are vulnerable to damage and destruction.

Table of Contents

<i>Capitalist crises, Sawant, the CWI and Trotskyism</i>	pg. 1
<i>Sewer Socialism and the Fight for a Poverty Wage</i>	pg. 1
<i>Will Nuclear Power Stop Climate Collapse?</i>	pg. 1
<i>Editorials</i>	pg. 2-3
<i>Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe</i>	pg. 4
<i>Anti-Fascist Protesters Confront Nazis in KC</i>	pg. 6
<i>Draft Anti-Fascist Trade Union Resolution</i>	pg. 9
<i>Boeing Threats, Sawant Responds Reformistically</i>	pg. 13
<i>Time to Organize Low Wage</i>	pg. 14
<i>BART WORKERS: TURN THE TIDE!</i>	pg. 15
<i>Review of Going Dark</i>	pg. 18
<i>Veolia</i>	pg. 20
<i>International Labor Defense</i>	pg. 22-23
<i>What we stand for</i>	pg. 24

For article footnotes and links go to <http://cwgsusa.wordpress.com/>

EDITORIAL:

Environment

In this issue of Class War we will further illustrate the imperialists' rush to human and other species destruction in their anything-for-a-buck quest for a remedy to the Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall. As Trotsky said in the Transitional Program, new inventions do not result in an increase in the general well-being of the masses. The capitalists' need to stay competitive drives them to run in front of a cascade of required new equipment purchases, with the amplitude of the technology waves more frequent and the height of the costs ever mounting. The productivity increases never pay off for long, so that capitalism's chief products are now environmental destruction, a global slave wage economy, an increasingly corporatist state and rising war danger.



Toxic fracking sludge pool

The Capitalist mode of production acts as a fetter on the advance of the forces of production to such a degree that the next industrial revolution can not break loose until the social relations of production are completely rearranged freeing the minds of tens of millions of workers, scientists and engineers whose role today is reduced to serving the dictates of the market. Far from advocating "straw-hut" socialism we

champion the next industrial revolution which will leave life threatening technologies we inherited from the capitalist mode of production behind. The historic program of the workers movement calls for full employment. **Right now we need billions for renewables not one cent for new nuclear! For a scientific crash program for nuclear waste remediation! We need to put millions to work cleaning up behind the energy and petrochemical**

industry while seriously fostering third generation solar electricity production and building a grid that takes and distributes energy from the places the sun is shining 24 hours a day. This requires the world socialist revolution which, for survival, is today's objective necessity.

We are publishing a review of "Going Dark" by Guy R. McPherson at a time when many on social media still hype a nuclear power future and still others additionally see the looming environmental cataclysm as a capitalist hoax, an invented social want for the purpose of selling the masses on the need for new "green" industries, and of course "green" merchandise. These "smoke-stack socialists" see Al Gore on TV and that's proof enough for them that it's all a scam! These lines of thinking on the parts of our opponents leave us wondering how oblivious some tendencies in the erstwhile vanguard can be! Just one example the stolen truck in Hidalgo State in Mexico with its load of Cobalt 60 radioisotope. This truck was taken for a joy ride and abandoned. If the containment vessel had been broken the potential for fatal contamination was enormous. This is not our spin but the judgment of the sources used by the BBC. Of course this is one half the private trucking business under capitalism, but the nuclear waste is also the result of the way cancer is treated in the for-profit world of hospital care. The security and disposal of nuclear materials require social planning that the anarchy of capitalist production relations cannot and its market will not provide. We believe the advances in understanding the human genome will make nuclear medicine as obsolete as blood letting with leaches and vacuum tube electronics. We expect US capitalism to be promoting nuclear power

and nuclear medicine until they day they are overthrown.

As for the "hoax" of ecological collapse, we refer the sectarians' attention to the increasing tension between the imperialist blocs over who gets to use the new sea-lanes and drill for oil and gas in Polar Regions soon to be free of ice! Leaving aside for a moment the very possible threat of extinction of aerobic life forms from the probable massive increase in methane in the atmosphere (and also from deep ocean trenches elsewhere, even off western Africa,) there is a danger of inter-imperialist military collision--WAR--over these toxic resources! This is already forecast by the worrisome conflict involving Japan, China and their neighbors over tiny uninhabited islets in the East Sea, and there have been provocative, if so far token, shows of force already.

International:

The rivalry between the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Russia/China imperialist bloc and the U.S. and allied imperialisms is simultaneously taking a number of forms. These are different national arenas, like rounds in a prizefight. So for instance the revolution and civil war in Syria, front line in the international class struggle and Arab revolution, becomes for the imperialists a secondary arena once the postures are over and a chemical weapons disposal deal has been worked out. Now there will be a bogus "Geneva II," without the heretofore-expected ballyhoo, and the two blocs will likely agree to disagree about a formula for a postwar Syria. Obama, displaying the height of cynicism, first threatened to rain Syria with "smart" munitions, then made a deal to solve his domestic political problem (no support among the masses for excellent reasons, no support among politicians for a list of reactionary motives.) Then he announced that the question of Iranian nuclear weapons manufacturing capability had always been a more important policy matter. This despite the fact that the C.I.A. had told him two years ago that Iran has no such program, contrary to the Israeli propaganda that keeps Netanyahu in power. So it is clear that news cycles have come and gone and Obama has to concern himself much less with the apparent contradiction between his ostensible support for decidedly bourgeois anti-Assad forces and the fact that his government has come across with almost exactly none of the military goods. This is looked upon as some kind of victory for pacifist "socialists" in the U.S., likewise for sectarians who see no revolution where they are not leading one, and as a victory for a variety of pro-Assad neo-stalinist mice we hear roaring.

Syria

The recent forums on Syria, such as in NY on November 17th, confirm the dynamics of the Syrian Revolution on the ground. The Local Coordination Committees (LCC) still represent the organic expression of the self-organization of the masses on the street and in the neighborhoods against Assad and the Islamists. While the LCC are not workers committees or councils, they do in an embryonic way represent the self-defense organization of the oppressed masses. As always, it is the duty of Marxists to provide a revolutionary workers expression to the felt needs of the masses, not to abandon the struggle or side with the oppressors. And what kind of anti-war movement can be built with the cheerleaders for Assad? In fact, a mass anti-war movement to imperialist saber-rattling over Syria has not emerged. Divorced from a workers program based on international working class solidarity and defense of the oppressed masses in the semi-colonial countries under the fist of imperialism, how can it? The Communist Workers Group (CWG) has called for a [united front defense of the Syrian Revolution](#), in support of the workers organizations and the masses against Assad and the forces of the New Caliphate and all the imperialists.

To the extent that the upcoming Geneva II Conference supports Assad, it will cement the regime in place for another duration. And right now, it looks like imperialism is happy supporting the status quo. As Syrian Freedom Forever stated:

"...the conference should lead to "an agreement to put in place a limited timeframe to form a Syrian transitional government with full executive powers, in accordance with the statement of Geneva I on January 30 2012". No clear remarks were said on Assad's future, while the Syrian regime has repeated that Bashar Al Assad would be the president leading the "transition" in case of agreement with the opposition in the Geneva conference of January."

Syria represents the preliminary rounds of the inter-imperialist conflict leading inexorably toward World War III. The world powers cannot extricate themselves from Syria or MENA given the strategic value of the region nor from the drive for exploitation in search of profits. At the same time, the imperialist powers, in their quest to capture the world markets, fear the specter of the exploited masses rising up and throwing off the imperialist yoke. The inter-imperialist conflict, the brutal Alawite capitalist Assad regime, the repression of the Sunni majority working class, the Kurdish national question, the Arab Spring and the



subsequent MENA uprisings propel the dynamic towards Permanent Revolution (see Trotsky). The completion of the unfinished bourgeois democratic tasks depends upon the leadership of the one revolutionary class, which alone is capable of accomplishing the tasks of the democratic revolution by a seamless transition to fulfilling the demands of the socialist program. What is lacking is a revolutionary Leninist Party grounded in the working masses to lead the fight. The imperialist powers are under pressure at Geneva II to come up with a solution to stabilize a potential powder-keg throughout MENA. But they are unable to accomplish this without an outright crushing of the rebellion and the working class. In order to smash the revolution they have denied military aid and employed the FSA to contain the revolution within Syria and used the FSA against the revolutionary organizing of the LCCs. The LCC's are already political expressions of the local militias and have taken on many administrative functions in the areas liberated from Assad. A revolutionary party with a transitional program would work to transform the LCC's into political and class conscious workers councils. Such LCC workers councils and militias would then be the foundational committees of a revolutionary regime, the class character of which would represent the street, the working class and small merchants. Western imperialism's dog in the fight, the leadership of the FSA and Syrian National Council (SNC) cannot unite the country and win peace, bread and land for the people; nor can they solve the Syrian refugee crisis any more than they could the Palestinian refugee crisis, because the solutions to these crises lie within the socialist revolution, not in any fake inter-imperialist brokered "peace." All the FSA and SNC leadership has to offer is the imposition of an imperialist solution to maintain the exploitative social relations that enslave the people to big capital, imperialism and suppress emergent workers' revolutions in the region. As world capitalism descends into barbarism, it is ever more urgent that the struggles of the masses resolves into crystallization of a revolutionary working class international party. Unlike like the abstentionists (ICL, IBT, HWRS, CPGB)

and neo-stalinists, neo-Healyites and other Assad ass-kissers (PSL, WWP, WSWs Socialist Fight,) many of whom see Assad as a victimized anti-imperialist, the CWG does not abandon the Syrian revolution. We embrace our internationalist duty to fight for a Marxist program, for Permanent Revolution and for world socialism!

Ukraine, Nepal and Thailand

As disparate as three places could be, the masses of these countries are united in misery, and it is exactly their bourgeois political systems of class rule that are at fault. In the Ukraine the masses have been enlisted in a struggle that offers no way out. Nothing but the revolutionary road offers a way out, but the masses have yet to realize this and enter it. So they are involved in a bloody tussle with the ruling party, following behind a famous prizefighter who thinks European Union membership and working for western European bosses will somehow be a better deal and life than a greater economic unity with the Russian ruling class and working for Russian bosses' profits, which is what the majority bourgeois party/government is offering.

In Nepal we see the revolutionary opportunities history handed the official Maoists on a plate dry up and blow away. After having toed the Beijing line that Nepal was only ready for a democratic stage of social revolution due to the lack of strategic social weight of the working class (imagine! these are their Chinese "Communist" mentors talking!) After unnecessarily demobilizing the masses and abandoning the civil war for parliamentarism, the Maoists saw no choice but to retreat to calling for a Constituent Assembly, hoping thereby to get the masses to save them from repressions that have already begun.

In Thailand the masses are righteously furious with their Bonapartist racket of a state, where one family permits various bourgeois parties to sit in a parliament AND BRIBES THEM ALL! The masses drove Thaksin Shinawatra from power and into exile, but of course they could not shut off his phone to his sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, who might as well be him and the Thai masses know it. The movement of the "[Yellow Shirts](#)" contains dangerously reactionary elements of the urban middle class, bourgeois democrats, monarchists, and can be characterized as a bourgeois movement opposing Thaksin Shinawatra with support for Constitutional Monarchy. Not only due to their own ambitions and calculations, three former Prime Ministers have joined in the call for her ouster, because there is a danger of a military coup by generals in the pocket of U.S. imperialism. None of these nationalist options are cause for any hope of improved

Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe

Greetings To the second congress of the Revolutionary Workers Group from the Communist Workers Group (USA)

December 6, 2013

Since “independence” in 1980 the ZANU-PF and its predecessors have made Zimbabwe safe for imperialist exploitation. The Program of Permanent Revolution is confirmed in the negative results of the national revolution, which gained for the national bourgeois forces the role of administrator over and champion of a capitalist economy which can neither support its people nor gain its independence from the dictates of the world market. They are playthings of imperialism; they cannot avoid the economic and military ravages intertwined with the inter-imperialist struggle over Africa’s resources. The ZANU-PF regime has not always been a favorite with the former colonizers and they are tolerated in the breach because the cost of overthrowing them was judged to be too steep by the Blair and Mbeki regimes. Sanctions imposed at that time impacted the lives of the working masses and ordinary poor. By design they did not interfere with the profits of the giant extraction companies.¹

In the epoch of imperialism there is no national program for the liberation of the semi-colonial countries and their people. The pan-Africanist vision also has not liberated Africa. While touted from many corners of the continent by liberation fighters turned capitalist state administrators, it serves as an ideological and organizational roadblock to the African workers revolution in particular and the world revolution by extension.

The tasks of the bourgeois revolution, the completion of the agricultural reform, national independence and democracy have not been completed by the ZANU-PF. How could they be with their political program? A layer of veterans has become a new ruling class. Their privilege derives from and is maintained by the counter-revolution from within the anti-imperialist revolution, and is just a cost of doing business for the imperialists.

Had these tasks been completed Zimbabwe would be able to feed its people and would not be trapped into mono-cropping for the world market. The starving of the masses fills the prisons for want of bread and democracy. Yet in the prisons hundreds have

died because the state cannot find the funds to feed the inmates but one meal a day.² The capitalist system is the crime and the prisons are the result! We say tear down the prisons! Complete the agricultural reform by uniting agricultural workers under the leadership of the working class to seize Capital’s assets, plan and implement a rational production of food to meet the needs of the people.

Had these tasks been completed the resources of the state would prevent the epidemic (reportedly 100,000 victims) of waterborne disease, and cholera would not be a threat today. Yet by subordinating the national revolution to imperialism, the mineral wealth of the nation keeps the miners and their families living in poverty without clean and safe water supplies.³

We hear Anglo American tooting its own horn for having donated a preposterous \$100,000 to the Red Cross and showcase plumbing projects to fight cholera. The fake concern of these imperialists is notable on two accounts. Capital proclaims its beneficial role as a big investor, yet the historic impoverishment of the nation is the product. We say complete the revolution! Expropriate the assets of foreign capital! Make the imperialists pay!⁴ Rio Tinto, Anglo American, Impala Platinum drain the nation’s wealth by keeping the miners wages at the starvation minimum wage of \$227 a month. The Chamber of Mines is fighting the union’s demands for \$800 for diamond miners, \$700 for platinum miners and \$573 for gold miners. The impasse in negotiations last week (Nov 26) will once again put the ZANU-PF to the test as the state arbitrator adjudicates on the dispute in January. We say no faith in the state arbitrators! VICTORY TO THE MINERS IN THEIR FIGHT FOR A LIVING WAGE! TO WIN AGAINST THE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATIONS UNITED STRIKES ACROSS SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE NEEDED! In Bloomberg.com we read, “The union believes that it’s fair and just for each sub-sector to remunerate its employees at rates that are proportional to its performance....” We say, union leaders who tie labor costs to the price of the ore workers extract from the ground are not committed to the workers but to the market and its dictates! The LCC demands a living wage for all! For wage and price committees tied to mass assemblies of workers, the unemployed, agricultural labor and students! We must reject wages being determined by the wild

fluctuations in the price of the ore workers mine. Imperialism has extracted its profit and super-profits when the ore was selling at high prices, yet they did not raise wages then, and now the labor fakers tier the wage demands referencing the imperialists excuses about the fall in demand! Repatriate the stolen super-profits! Expropriate the Expropriators!⁵

We have noticed a big increase of the Chinese influence in Zimbabwe and it is not limited to the economic sphere. The 98 million dollar loan to build the Harare military base signals a long-term partnership with the ZANU-PF regime. It will garrison forces aimed squarely at the working class, as Zimbabwe is not the imperialist proxy of choice for enforcement on the continent. For the present we don’t see Zimbabwe making military moves against its neighbors. This base will constitute the security of the state at the expense of the masses who will have to pay back the loan. And the Atlantic Monthly raises the question about what it represents about future projections of Chinese military power onto the continent. We well remember that imperialists have made Africa their battleground in both inter-imperialist world wars and we see Africom as an early placeholder for US imperialism and its NATO allies.⁶

The Marikana example is an object lesson in the need for the working class to organize self defense of its ranks and its struggles. We know the ANC colluded with the mine owners against the Marikana miners and shot them down in cold blood. The ZANU-PF is no better and we must warn the workers against faith in the state and prepare the masses to defend their strikes, to arm the people and disarm the police. As Trotsky observed in his History of the Russian Revolution, “The way to the soldier’s rifle leads through the revolver taken from the Pharaoh.”⁷

From the belly of the imperialist beast and on behalf of the vanguard workers of the USA we salute this second congress of the Revolutionary Workers Group! We salute the programmatic conquests that have resulted in the formation of the RWG. The RWG is the ripe fruit of the battle against Cliffism and its surrender to the Popular Front and entry into the MDC. We would wish to caution vanguard fighters everywhere of the Cliff/Schachtman tendency’s history of reducing class struggle to economism. Recently, these willing class collaborators

(the ISO-Z) tried to hitch their failed economist project to the unsullied standard of the RWG which proudly defended the transitional method against a fake unity of the working class and its vanguard around the minimum program of reformism. The RWG likewise rejected the schematicism and target fixation of the FLTI which refuses to recognize Chinese imperialism though it stares workers in their face anywhere they care to look and particularity in the southern hemisphere. The RWG has successfully defended the revolutionary position on the August 1991 coup and counter-coup in the former USSR, and has done so against the considerable pressure from the backslider RCIT, whose break from the method of Cliffism is incomplete as demonstrated by their support for the Yeltsin faction and their objectively pro-imperialist position in support of the Bosnian breakaway state and the NATO bombing of Serbia. We salute the RWG for raising the banner in Africa for solidarity with the Revolutionary fighters in Syria and in solidarity with the deepening Arab revolution against the misguided calls for retreat to bourgeois parliamentarism and the Constituent Assembly while trade unionists on strike in Egypt are daily fighting the military regime and while the order of the day across MENA is to organize workers councils and militias.

We are united in our internationalist vision and resolved upon the tasks of building a revolutionary workers international. The very survival of humanity depends on our victory. Capitalism, the impending inter-imperialist conflict over resources and markets and the devastation of climate change will devastate the billions in the semi-colonial world whose infrastructure is least prepared to adapt. The impact of drought driven by climate change on the Syrian economy has driven the people to revolt and we will see case after similar case as the comprador bourgeoisie seek to keep the cork in the bottle. Hurricanes, typhoons, natural disasters combined with capitalist lack of planning and the anarchy of production that gave us Fukushima cries out for the formation of a planned world economy. Our tasks are monumental but our program of class independence and the dialectical method of the transitional program guide us to build our fighting party to lead the workers to victory.

All power to the working class!

Victory to the Zimbabwe miners! Justice for Marikana!

For the united socialist state of southern Africa!

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WORKERS MOBILISE TO FIGHT POVERTY AND DICTATORSHIP!

The condition of the working class in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate on the back of the global recession now in its fifth year. Over the past year unemployment has increased with working conditions of those in employment deteriorating as capitalist employers demand a new labour law that will make it easy to continue plundering the resources and exploiting the working class. The drought has further imperilled the already difficult position of the poor rural farmers who rely on scarce and little state inputs for livelihood.

Youth unemployment is at its highest combined with the vicious attack on the students by the state demanding exorbitant fees from students. Education has essentially become a luxury to many working class and peasant families and even most of the lower middle class households who are struggling to make ends meet on the back of incomes far less than the liberal poverty datum line of about \$600. The recent increase of prices of basic goods have made the situation more difficult and a throwback to the pre-2009 years where ordinary masses lived from hand to mouth.

The recent referendum clearly exposed the deceptive and murderous nature of the local rulers and their imperialist sponsors who conspired to trick and deceive the masses to vote for a document that essentially attacks their welfare and certifies their continued exploitation and oppression. It is most significant that most of the eligible voters saw through the trick and boycotted the charade which has been paraded by the political parties as historic and an incremental development in terms of democracy and human rights. Imperialism supported by the main political parties and most civic groups directly urged the masses to vote in favour of the capitalist anti-working people draft with other so called radical groups playing the role of a left cover and contingent plan for imperialism by advocating for a meaningless No vote thereby legitimising the sham referendum.

The Revolutionary Workers Group (RWG) campaigned vigorously for a boycott of the sham referendum calling on workers and the poor masses to mobilise for a Congress of delegates to write a constitution that will protect their interests and lives. The boycott by the workers and the ordinary masses reflected the rejection of the agenda by the main political parties on behalf of imperialism to plunder the natural and human resources of the country for the benefit of the capitalists and their comprador cronies constituting the GNU. Beyond that and more importantly the masses have to be organised and mobilised for independent and militant active actions that fight capitalism and dictatorship.

Internationally capitalism is experiencing its worst crisis after

Cont pg. 11

Revolutionary Greetings from CWG (Aotearoa/New Zealand) on International Workers Day 2013!

Comrades,

Since 2008 we have witnessed the deepening of the current crisis of capitalism from a global recession to a global depression. Capitalism is approaching its final crisis. All that is required is for the world proletariat to stand up and push it over.

In its desperation, capitalism is cannibalising its working class and its raw materials, provoking an intense crisis of destruction of humanity and nature. Not only is the immiseration of the proletariat provoking uprisings from MENA to sub-Saharan Africa to China and Latin America, the labor aristocracy in the imperialist countries is being driven into the ground.

The result is the heightening of the class contradiction has reached explosive potential, only dissipated in numerous disconnected uprisings suppressed or contained by pro-imperialist regimes from South Africa, Egypt, Libya, Venezuela, because they are not yet united and mobilised into an international revolutionary movement.

In the imperialist countries, the spontaneous uprisings of the indignados, of Occupy, and of left-wing parliamentary tendencies such as Syriza, have proven incapable of meeting the challenge of revolutionary leadership. The crisis has thrown up neo-fascist elements that threaten to smash the new layers of militants before they can be organised into a force capable of mobilising working class struggle on the streets and workplaces.

The so-called revolutionary left of all colors from pink/brown national reformers, Bolivarians, Greens Anarchists and fake Trotskyists, are all feigning left and posing as revolutionary saviours of the working class. They are all traitors in the ranks

Cont pg. 11

Table of Contents

-Main article - Workers Mobilise	pg. 1
-CWG (Aotearoa/New Zealand)	pg. 1
-Editorial	pg. 2
-2013 May day statement	pg. 2
-CWG (USA) Memorial & May day article	pg. 3
-Local article - Free Malinghoma	pg. 4
-Referendum flier	pg. 5
-Referendum flier	pg. 6
-Post referendum article	pg. 6
-Defeat the Coup in CAR	pg. 7
-Hands Off North Korea	pg. 8
-What we stand for	pg. 12

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(Endnotes)

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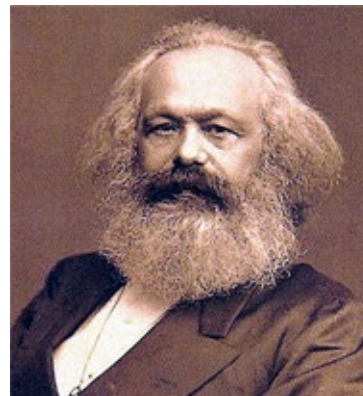
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Anti-Fascist Protesters Confront Nazis in Kansas City: We Need Mass Labor, Black and Brown Mobilizations to Stop the Nazis/KKK!



Rally against the Nazis in Kansas City on November 9th

November 9th saw [worldwide protests](#) against fascists, with rallies in Sweden, Poland, Germany, Russia, Italy and Spain. In the United States, [several hundred anti-fascist protestors](#) rallied in downtown Kansas City, Missouri across from the Jackson County Courthouse on November 9th against the National Socialist Movement (NSM) Nazis on the anniversary of Kristallnacht. The anti-racist counter protest represented the good people of Kansas City and the surrounding area and embodied the Black, Brown, immigrant and Jewish communities, workers and youth, anarchists, IWW's (Industrial Workers of the World) and socialists, plus individual trade unionists. The few dozen Nazis (the KKK did not show) were protected by the cops and police barricades and they were allowed to spew their race-hatred, particularly targeting immigrants, through a sound system, while the anti-racist demonstrators had only their voices to drown them out, as bullhorns were banned in the counter-demonstration area. The counter-demo at the courthouse against the NSM was supported by SHARP (Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice), the Latino Coalition of Kansas City, the Ida B. Wells Coalition Against Racism and Police Brutality, and Occupy Kansas City. Unfortunately, adequate forces were not

there to stop the Nazis from rallying.

A larger, diversionary, Gandhi-style pacifist rally was held two miles away from the courthouse at the [Liberty Memorial](#), endorsed by the City Council, faith groups, politicians such as City Councilman John Sharp and Mayor Sly James, as well as the NAACP. This is a completely bankrupt strategy and only serves to diffuse the mobilization of the masses against fascist thugs. The [Kansas City Council](#) passed a resolution urging "*all residents to express their moral outrage and morally confront the NSM's hateful rhetoric through their words and actions on November 9.*" ***Moral outrage or embarrassing the Nazis/KKK is not enough! Fascism needs to be crushed before it grows!***

The historical experience of Germany in the years before the Nazi seizure of power, and more recently, the experience of Golden Dawn political violence in Greece shows us the danger of tolerating these forces in our midst. These racist terrorists are a mortal danger to Blacks, Latinos, immigrants, Jews, LGBTQ persons, Roma,...all decent persons, and to the racially integrated working class and the unions. The KKK used to lynch union organizers along with Blacks and they

terrorized the Jewish community, while the Nazis in Germany crushed the powerful German labor movement. It is suicidal foolishness to see this as an issue of taking the 'morally high ground'. And it certainly isn't an issue of the right to free speech. The "free speech" the Nazis/KKK engage in is the lynch rope, firebombing and genocide. It is a question of the self-defense of the oppressed and the workers movement. That this racist trash would be allowed to get away with rallying (in SS uniforms and giving Nazi salutes) in the heart of a major urban, heavily Black, Latino and immigrant (second largest Sudanese population in the US) city like Kansas City is a very ominous sign. This would not happen if there is not some level of bourgeois support for fascism.

The counter-protesters at the Courthouse were separated from the NSM rally by police barricades and cops who searched them. Even mounted police were present and no doubt there were even larger numbers of state forces waiting in the shadows. The police defend the fascists, while they attack Occupy activists. The police are kindred spirits with the fascists as they themselves are racist terrorists, with a Black person shot down by them every 28 hours in America. The capitalist state is not an ally or even neutral in struggles of the oppressed, as there is a domestic Democratic/Republican Party attack on labor, the Black/Brown communities, immigrants, the social gains of the past, and civil liberties; while US imperialism wages war on the workers and oppressed abroad in the interest of profits for American capitalism. The class bias of the state is why the CWG-USA does not call for the state to ban the Nazis/KKK. As was shown by the police restrictions on the anti-racist protestors in Kansas City, any such measures will primarily be directed at the masses, leftists and the unions. We rely only on the independent mobilizations of the masses to stop the fascists.

Leon Trotsky analyzed the social basis of fascism and put forward a program

to fight it in the 1930's, particularly in his pamphlet "[FASCISM-What It Is and How To Fight It \(1932\).](#)" Trotsky saw the basis of fascism as the ruined petty bourgeoisie (small businessmen, professionals, students, unemployed, peasants) of the towns, cities and country, driven to irrational counter-revolutionary despair by capitalism in crisis. "All the countless human beings whom finance capital itself has brought to desperation and frenzy..." even at a certain point drawing in the most backward sections of the working class due to the lack of a revolutionary leadership and party guiding with a clear political program to resolve the crisis. Given an insurgent workers movement, the capitalist ruling class will unleash the fascists to crush the organizations of the working class:

"From fascism the bourgeoisie demands a thorough job; once it has resorted to methods of civil war; it insists on having peace for a period of years. And the fascist agency, by utilizing the petty bourgeoisie as a battering ram, by overwhelming all obstacles in its path, does a thorough job. After fascism is victorious, finance capital directly and immediately gathers into its hands, as in a vise of steel, all the organs and institutions of sovereignty, the executive administrative, and educational powers of the state: the entire state apparatus together with the army, the municipalities, the universities, the schools, the press, the trade unions, and the co-operatives. When a state turns fascist, it does not mean only that the forms and methods of government are changed in accordance with the patterns set by Mussolini -- the changes in this sphere ultimately play a minor role -- but it means first of all for the most part that the workers' organizations are annihilated; that the proletariat is reduced to an amorphous state; and that a system of administration is created which penetrates deeply into the masses and which serves to frustrate the independent crystallization of the proletariat. Therein precisely is the gist of fascism..." -- Leon Trotsky, "[FASCISM What It Is and How To Fight It \(1932\)](#)"

The ongoing crisis of world capitalism today has witnessed the rise of fascist groups. The Golden Dawn in Greece has grown dramatically in the absence of a workers movement with a revolutionary leadership

and Leninist Party willing to lead the workers to power. Europe has seen right-wing attacks on the Roma as well as immigrants. The CWG-USA wrote in September, 2012:

"Capitalism breeds racism, fascism, poverty and war

The organized attack by the French capitalist state goes hand-in-hand with the racist attacks on Roma and immigrants. As capitalism reels from the current crisis, right-wing and fascist organizations are on the rise. The big bourgeoisie looks at social democracy and sees that it is increasingly unable to demobilize and contain or check the rage of the worker masses. So it finds sluices of funds for fascist groups with plans to use them tomorrow to smash labor militancy. The corporatists of the American Legislative Exchange Council (A.L.E.C.) correspond socially to the European big money backers of fascism.

The brazen Golden Dawn misogynist/fascists in Greece and the anti-Muslim sociopath Breivik in Norway are fun-house foreshadows of what is in store, and not just for those who can be classed as different or other. The ruling coalition and new parliament are barely functional, the breakdown of civil society that accompanies their attempt to impose the "troika's" austerity is leading to chaos. The working class, lacking a revolutionary party, has not created the structures for workers democracy and working class control of the society to answer the power vacuum."

Class War, Vol. 1, No. 2, "[Hands off the Roma and all immigrants! No deportations!](#)"

The US has seen the Obama administration deporting immigrants in record numbers, feeding into the anti-immigrant racism that the fascists use for recruiting. And the AFL-CIO/Change to Win labor tops answer is to support a reactionary so-called immigration reform bill that seeks to further militarize the border, impose a new guest worker program and just perhaps, maybe grant citizenship after a decade or more waiting period (see *Class War Vol. 1, No. 5, "[AFL-CIO/Change to Win Labor Leaders Selling Sham Democrats/Republican Immigration 'Reform'](#)"*). The racist cops are waging a virtual war on Black and brown communities. **Meanwhile,**

Holocaust denier and Hitler apologist David Irving is conducting a speaking tour of Eastern US cities. All leftists, trade unionists and the Black, Brown, immigrant and Jewish communities need to prepare to take steps to stop this.

To oppose the fascist NSM in Kansas City, activists travelled from surrounding states, including a group of leftists/trade unionists from Iowa. The CWG-USA presented a perspective of mobilizing the power of the racially integrated labor movement to launch labor actions to stop the fascists. A draft trade union resolution signed by several trade unionists was emailed a few days before the 9th to Iowa union members, officials and locals, the AFL-CIO State Federations of Iowa, Missouri and Kansas, the Iowa AFL-CIO Central Labor Councils, the Center for Workers Justice of Eastern Iowa, and the Greater Kansas City Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). The KC IWW put the resolution in the informational booklet they distributed. The "[DRAFT resolution for a national labor anti-fascist movement](#)" called for:

".....the AFL-CIO and Change to Win coalition to adopt a forthright emergency policy for the physical rejection of public displays, marches, rallies, and fundraising events by these sociopathic fascist forces; and Further be it resolved, that the training of marshals and pickets and self-defense groups to caravan demonstrators to anti-fascist mobilizations be organized directly by the local unions, district councils and Central Labor Councils, which shall open their halls to mobilize their rank and file memberships together with black, brown, immigrant and victimized communities to stop the fascists and make them unwelcome in our cities, towns and all the places we live."

This resolution was meant for the militant rank and file to start to organize against the Nazis/KKK within the labor movement. Unions that can mass-mobilize against the fascists are certainly in a good position to fight their bosses as well.

Kansas City has a proud labor tradition. This is what was missing from the Kansas City protest: the mass mobilization of the multi-racial organized labor movement in alliance with Black, Brown and immigrant communities. Labor should have organized mass, disciplined contingents of union locals,

not just a few union officials and individual trade unionists; thousands should have been brought out to shut down the NSM in an intelligent manner.



Militant trade unionists attended rally in Kansas City

The workers movement has a history of mobilizing against fascism! The then-Trotskyist Socialist Workers Party (SWP) members that led the 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters strikes, one of three crucial strikes that year that were the catalyst for the great industrial organizing drives and the birth of the modern Teamsters union, organized workers and the community against the Silver Shirts in the 1930's. The Silver Shirts were fascists who were trying to organize in the Twin Cities and elsewhere. The trade unionists organized a workers defense guard who stopped the fascists from organizing and drove them out of the Twin Cities through intelligent, disciplined, militant, bold actions.

"It became known immediately that Zachary's (ed. Silver Shirt organizer) main theme had been to call for a vigilante attack on the headquarters of Local 544.... This situation called for prompt countermeasures. So Local 544, acting with its customary decisiveness, answered the threat by organizing a union defense guard during August, 1938...."

The local served public notice that it would take care of its own defense, putting no misplaced reliance on the police for protection. The union leaders were fully aware that capitalist politicians in seats of power not only tend to wink at fascist hooliganism; they often encourage and abet such extralegal attacks on workers. Not only that. Their minions, the police, condone and protect fascist activities, become members of such movements and, when open violence is used against the trade unions, usually

CLASS WAR

look the other way....

Conceptually, the guard was not envisaged as the narrow formation of a single union. It was viewed rather as the nucleus around which to build the broadest possible united defense movement.... It was expected that time and events could also make it possible to extend the united front to include the unemployed, minority peoples, youth – all potential victims of the fascists, vigilantes, or other reactionaries....

The only requirements for inclusion in its ranks were readiness to defend the unions from attack, willingness to take the necessary training for that purpose, and acceptance of the democratic discipline required in a combat unit...."
- [Teamster Politics](#), by Farrell Dobbs

The SWP in 1939 also initiated a mass rally against the Nazis and Silver Shirts of 50,000 workers at [Madison Square Garden](#). Even with 50,000 workers mobilized, the 1,780 cops defended the fascists and attacked the anti-fascist workers who attempted to close the rally down. As Teamster organizer and SWP leader Farrell Dobbs explained:

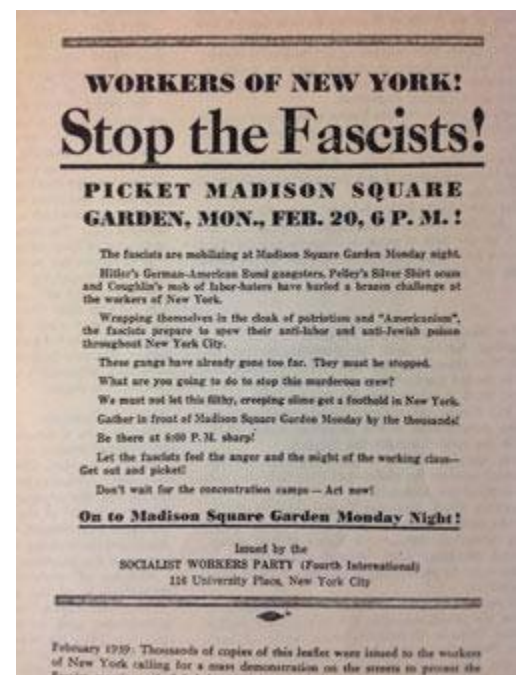
"It was evident, especially at this point, that even a large gathering of workers cannot easily attain its objective unless these workers have been organized thoroughly in advance and trained to act in sharp coordination. It was evident, in other words, that for the complete success of such a demonstration a militant, organized Workers Defense Guard is indispensable."
- ["The Fight Against Fascism in the USA"](#), Socialist Workers Party [US]
[Education for Socialist Bulletins](#)

The workers movement and the oppressed need organization and leadership and a political program for direction based on methods of struggle. This is not going to come from the servile, Democratic Party AFL-CIO/Change to Win labor federation leaderships. These labor-fakers outright collaborate with the bosses and their politicians to suppress labor struggle (see [Class Warrior #5 BART STRIKES: Once again on the method and relevance of Trotsky's Transitional Program](#)).

And anarchism or the anarcho-syndicalist

Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) are no answer. Both sneer at the Trotskyist political program and the transitional method, and favor "direct action" divorced from a working class program of struggle that challenges the foundations of capitalism. Are they calling for the mass mobilization of organized labor linked to the oppressed communities to fight fascism today? To unleash the power of the working class? For organized workers self-defense? Just as in the 1930's, today we need "men (ed. and especially women) from nowhere" to rise from the ranks within the labor movement to refresh the sellout union leaderships that exists today, a misleadership that is incapable of defending our unions against the assault of the bosses, not to even begin to speak of mobilizing against the Nazis/KKK.

The CWG-USA advocates militant workers forming organized class struggle fractions/caucuses within the unions to fight for a class struggle program and fill the void left by an abstentionist union leadership that will not lead the fight. We also advocate linking organized labor to the oppressed Black, Brown and immigrant communities to form self-defense and struggle committees within those communities. American workers desperately need a fighting, multi-racial workers/labor party with a base in the unions and the oppressed communities, uniting with our international working class sisters and brothers, to organize struggle to abolish this capitalist system of exploitation that breeds oppression, fascism, racism and war.





Anti-Fascist Workers Defense Guard in Minneapolis initiated by Trotskyist militants from Teamsters Union Local 544

For mass labor led mobilizations to stop Nazis/KKK and other fascist groups.

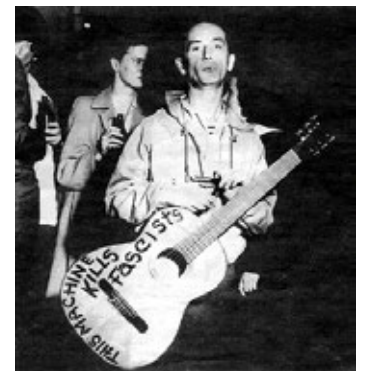
No reliance on the cops, authors of racist police brutality; no reliance on Democratic/Republican politicians- they are no friends of labor or the oppressed!

For a fighting workers labor party.

Defend the black and brown communities and identity victimized populations by organizing the Workers/oppressed self-defense formations in our union halls.

Fight for full citizenship rights for all immigrants! Abolish ICE/ La Migra! Tear down the fence! Smash the racist border vigilantes.

We call for a workers united front self defense of our entire working class- no exclusions or exceptions!



Draft Anti-Fascist Trade Union Resolution

The following was signed by several trade unionists and was emailed a few days before the November 9th anti-fascist rally to Iowa union members, officials and locals, the AFL-CIO State Federations of Iowa, Missouri and Kansas, the Iowa AFL-CIO Central Labor Councils, the Center for Workers Justice of Eastern Iowa, and the Greater Kansas City Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

See attached anti-fascist resolution with initial signatories in preparation for the anti-fascist mobilizations in KC this weekend and the preparation for the actions to counter the Greek Fascist Golden Dawn fundraising in Astoria, Queens, NY.

Workers who agree that labor must take the lead in organizing to unite workers and the oppressed against fascist mobilizations consider signing this appeal to labor and bring resolutions to your labor union, working class organizations, and community groups of the oppressed.

Militant workers will not wait for their organizations to stand the fascists down and will mobilize as we did in Philadelphia On October 19th to stop the "White Power" racists on "Leif Ericson Day" but we know that exemplary mobilizations of handfuls of militants will not be sufficient to stop the racist

right and that only the organized might of the working class can stop fascism from raising its ugly head.

Write us back to get listed and report local resolutions that are passed and are similar.

DRAFT resolution for a national labor anti-fascist movement. For submittal to all meetings of working people.

Stop the NAZIs & KKK in Kansas City! Stop the Golden Dawn in New York!

Whereas, history shows that while some workers were at first hoodwinked by fascism, soon enough it became clear that fascism was the enemy of all workers everywhere; and

Whereas, wherever fascism triumphed slave labor was instituted and racism was officially encouraged by the state, flourished and served

various murder campaigns and the terrorizing and suppression of labor organizations; and

Therefore, it is a grievous error to support any free-speech for fascists, on any civil libertarian basis. On the contrary, history shows that fascism is the enemy of the pluralistic society; and

Whereas, the world economic crisis of capitalist decay serves as a growth medium for the ignorant politics of scapegoating, racism, immigrant bashing, misogyny, anti-Semitism, all forms of chauvinism, homophobia and the persecution of Roma and national minorities, we recognize that all workers and their organizations are the ultimate targets of the fascist ideologies and are the physical targets of their growing movement; and

Whereas, the self- defense of the working class, Blacks, Latinos, immigrants, Jews,

LGBTQ people, is crucial to suppress this mortal threat to labor, which should not be mistaken for varieties of reactionary debating societies, but are racist terrorist organizations, as has been amply demonstrated across the history of the KKK, the self-appointed border guards of the Minutemen and militia who kill immigrants crossing the desert, the ongoing European fascists' attacks on Roma people and the murder in Greece of a working class hip hop artist by Golden Dawn members; and

Whereas, US fascists were successfully confronted and prevented from rallying on Boat-house Row in Philadelphia on October the 19th, and NAZI, KKK and Aryan Nations fascists are marching on Kansas City November 9th and numbers of anti-fascists are mobilizing against them. And whereas, fundraising for the Greek fascist Golden Dawn Party is being conducted in Astoria, Queens; and

Therefore, we call on the AFL-CIO and Change to Win coalition to adopt a forthright emergency policy for the physical rejection of public displays, marches, rallies, and fundraising events by these sociopathic fascist forces; and

Further be it resolved, that the training of marshals and pickets and self-defense groups to caravan demonstrators to anti-fascist mobilizations be organized directly by the local unions, district councils and Central Labor Councils, which shall open their halls to mobilize their rank and file memberships together with black, brown, immigrant and victimized communities to stop the fascists and make them unwelcome in our cities, towns and all the places we live.

Submitted by : *

*Organizational affiliation for personal identification purposes only
Labor Donated, 11/05/2013

Cont. from pg. 3 Editorial..

material well-being. Thais need a section of their own of a world party of socialist revolution!

We note with satisfaction the Second Congress of the Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe.

The Revolutionary Workers Group (RWG) in their short history has bounded from one theoretical conquest to the next. They are a great beacon of hope for the burgeoning African working class, who now are

CLASS WAR

increasingly being whipsawed between the blocs of imperialist bosses and the ideology of the failed two-stage theory of revolution and associated reformist misleadership of the international working class. While the RWG is meeting in a constructive and historic congress the reformists international forces are stepping all over themselves at Nelson Mandela funeral meetings. Like Gandhi there is no taking anything from Mandela's personal courage. But likewise, he was the champion of a nationalist political dead-end, disarmed the working class theoretically and organizationally and trapped South Africa in its present imperialist cul-de-sac.

One has only to look at the present gory mess in the Central African Republic or the state-ordered butchery at Marikana in South Africa to see the prospect of life in Africa without the socialist revolution, even without consideration of the likelihood that the imperialist blocs could well wish to make Africa a "theater" or even the central arena of World War III. Eurocentrics generally do not acknowledge or even know the extent of Africa's loss of life and the devastation suffered in the previous world wars; in the same way there is little understanding how these losses were contributory, both as causes and effects, to the imperialists' underdevelopment of the continent. This is changing now, although for the imperialists this is so far predominantly taking the form of expansion of the extraction and agricultural industries. This makes distorted economies, environmental tragedy and mass unemployment, since this kind of "development" is neither the next industrial revolution the world needs nor the planned economy that can satisfy the masses' crying lack of modern necessities. Thus the tasks of the RWG are the tasks of the world revolution, the tasks of all champions of the working class and human species survival. (See greeting to RWG congress on page 4)

Pensions!

The generalized assault on the working class is no longer limited to collective bargaining rights of the public sector employees, but is now a wholesale attack on all wages and benefits of the organized. The bourgeoisie has not failed to modernize its equipment or step up the speedup in the five years of this world crisis of capitalism. The one thing the rise in stock market prices proves besides compulsive gambling is a general rise in productivity. And the increased speedup is borne out by the increase in on-the-job worker fatalities. Heart attacks figured in a to-date new record of 36 in New York, up from 21 in 2012.

But robber barons can never have enough, since mere amounts in company tills do not confer privilege and there are no hereditary

December 2013

aristocratic titles to be had. For that you need to make misery, so that you can enjoy more exclusive and superior rights, and one way to do that is to steal a person's pension. If bosses can steal a person's pension they can make the worker fear for job security, with retirement out of the question. This makes for more youth unemployment, with more downward pressure on all workers' wages.

For railroad employees and others who always were exempted from the Social Security system, the threat by the bosses' pet lawmakers in the statehouses to carry out the elimination of their pension funds is a living horror. [Class Warrior 5-Veolia pg. 2,4,6] These assaults on pensions ought to provoke the biggest labor movement battle since the fight for the 8-hour day. Instead, we are treated to whimpering press release protests from AFL-CIO economists, whose superiors live and die with the fortunes of their capitalist party, the Democrats.

The threat of bankruptcy in Detroit puts pensions in the center of the bulls-eye. Now we see this threat rising in Ohio and we see the management of railroads in Illinois brandishing this threat too. Against the moral cowardice of this mean-spirited capitalist ploy we call for the living wage for all! Prevailing rate pension payments are the right of those whose surplus value was robbed from them the whole of their adult lives.

United Public Workers for Action (UPWA)

<http://upwa.info/>

Expose Veolia Conference:

**Stop Privatization, US
and Internationally!**

Panels:

Labor, Environment, Privatization, Palestine, Veolia, Boston Bus Drivers, Local Water Systems, Defend BART Strike Leader George Figueroa!

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humanity and nature, there is not even an embryonic world party in existence. Facing a new world crisis that poses our fate as that of socialism or barbarism, in the stark terms of climate chaos and collapse of civilization, for the working class to survive capitalism must be destroyed. The task of building Trotsky's new world party on the basis of his method and program of the late 1930s is once again a matter of life and death!

To do this we have to be champions of Trotsky's method and theory to defeat those who junk it. The method is that of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky on the crisis-ridden nature of capitalism, driven by the contradiction between the forces and relations of production that intensifies to the point of its revolutionary overthrow. Marx's analysis in *Capital* proves that the contradiction between the forces and relations of production is expressed in the law of the Tendency for the Rate of Profit to Fall (TRPF). Briefly the TRPF results from the relative increase in investment in constant capital that does not produce value. This leads to falling profits, as capital cannot increase the exploitation of labor sufficiently to maintain its profits. The result is a crisis of surplus capital unable to be reinvested profitably. To restore the rate of profit the ruling class must destroy [constant and variable capital](#) (by War!) While global capitalism stabilized after WW2 on the basis of the historic defeat of the working class by the massive destruction of industry and the European labor movement, this only delayed a return to crisis 30 years later when the TRPF once more led to renewed crisis ("stagflation" of the 70's).

The struggle to rebuild a world party of socialism on the basis of Trotsky's method and program has a long way to go. Everywhere the dregs of the liquidated Fourth International pop up as new batches of Mensheviks misleading the workers with their opportunism into popular fronts tying the workers' hands while the ruling class prepares its fascist reaction. As the workers fight the austerity and refuse to pay the price of the bosses' crisis, the reformist left competes to demobilize and cheat them of victory by continuing to junk Trotsky's method and program. That means that to be able to win victories in this period of renewed and deepening capitalist crisis the working class needs to be armed and rearmed with the weapons of dialectics and the Transitional Program.

We defend dialectics by rejecting the opportunists who are empiricist and one-sided in their method and in their reformist program.

As the class fights austerity, some opportunists attempt to cover their tracks with appeals to Marxist 'orthodoxy'. It is obvious when the Democrats borrow from Monthly Review to attach Marx's name to save their renewed Keynesian nostrums of bailing out the banks out of workers taxes and falling living standards, that the crisis goes deeper than underconsumption. The reformists must find some quotes from Marx that justify their betrayals. There is now a renewed interest in the TRPF as the underlying cause of the crisis.

The current public debate in the Committee for a Workers International (CWI) over the TRPF is a case in point. The CWI is a reformist outfit that long ago gave away any pretence to serious Marxism. Yet they have been forced by this public spat to refer to the TRPF as the 'ultimate' cause of crisis, while at the same time denying its role in the Global Financial Crisis (GFC). Even so, blogger and CWI member Bruce Wallace, who challenged the CWI on this inconsistency, shows that he too doesn't actually see any direct impact of the TRPF on the CWI program. He applauds the victory of Sawant in her election to the Seattle City Council based on a program that rejects the transitional method. That would explain why he can side with Kliman (see [The Failure of Capitalist Production](#)) on defending the TRPF without any worry about the latter's petty bourgeois academic state capitalist position.

This tells us that Wallace separates the TRPF from both Marx's method and program. He splits the objective from the subjective aspect of the dialectic. The 'objective' in this case is the mechanical working of the TRPF 'law' but behind our backs, while the 'subjective' aspect is the CWI's reformist program. This is classic Menshevism, the objective laws march on and the petty bourgeois leadership tells the workers what demands to raise to keep pace (a \$15 per hour minimum wage). We use inverted commas here because we don't think the objective and subjective factors can be reduced to their caricature of Marxism.

We critique the CWI, including Wallace, on the basis of their empiricist method and reformist program. The TRPF understood as a 'law' has to be motivated by the class struggle over the rate of exploitation. It is not expert knowledge by petty bourgeois Marxists of a law that happens behind workers backs. The CWI leadership

sees it as an 'ultimate' cause but cannot make the connections to concrete reality. Wallace says it is always the main cause that motivates the immediate causes but still does not link that to program. Yet the TRPF is not just a 'law' that operates upon us, it results from two centuries of class struggle. We have to recognize it as an historically objective law that must be overcome by our subjective intervention/negation - by a revolutionary party and by the socialist revolution.

That means that we must insist on the dialectic method and derive from it a program that activates that struggle of the class to make its own transition to class political consciousness. So when the bosses try to drive down the value of constant and variable capital we need to show that this is a necessary expression of crisis and not an option for them (see [RedRave](#)). Second, when we raise a demand for a wage raise, it must be based on what workers want (as we say and do) because only the class can determine what it needs to live on and how to fight for it. See [Class Warrior #5](#).

The CWI lines up alongside all the degenerated Trotskyists who think they can bargain with the bosses to deliver what the workers need. Their whole history is one of covering for reformists from the UK Labour Party to the US Democrats.

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The IAWT Strikes:
Once again on the relevance and method of Trotsky's Transitional Program

Introduction:
Every strike potentially becomes a school for revolution and the IAWT strikes of 2013 provide a question of revolutionary dynamics: how does the working class organize its politics in a period of capitalist crisis and what role does democratic organizational and political programs play in the labor struggle? These questions are provocatively answered by the Transitional Program. In this report we discuss our differences with important political leaders in the presence of the Young Workers' Solidarity Committee (YWSC). Black and white have been ignored, let's see who refuses to learn and why.

The workers' program cannot be reduced to slogans of bullet points. The whole we have in our action program is a reality decided by all interests of workers and reformists as a "laborist left". The workers' program cannot be reduced to one point system that puts in the Transitional Program, which while correct in explaining what is objectively called for, does not take workers from their current backward consciousness to class political consciousness and the understanding of the need for and how to prepare for the Socialist Revolution. These right centrists and reformists who select the workers program to the ruling class' leave for and used to keep our wages below the level where workers further away from preparing the class for revolution.

The current campaign and article in the Bay Area like *Callahan's* *Struggle* and *Callahan's* *Struggle* for a living wage for the working class, these minimum wage control of democracy but labor left.

on the fight for jobs for all and a livable wage, a prevailing wage that labor defines a demand which raises the question of the sharing of work and sharing of hours with no reduction of pay and the shifting of work of wages and prices. We are told by some outlets and their related fronts that even holding the minimum wage would be a great step forward for the workers and that we should build the line of the campaign to the campaign by calling for labor to campaign for a new higher minimum wage. We then continue to say that wage below the prevailing rate and that below the living wage. To win this prevailing rate will take a class struggle that unites the class, develops democratic workers organizations, develops the workers program and breaks from the Democrats. That is more than the right centrists and reformists have done for. In Bay Area labor where it is the basis of the Democrats and down the minimum wage demand (other by calling for \$15 or \$20 and a minimum \$5 increase for all with previous and new) put in they are again more ideal than the Democrats, who call for \$15 minimum, and the line of reformists and former Labor Secretary Robert Reich, who is for a \$15.00 minimum, and thus put pressure on the union and Democrats to do what they are in the process of doing already, raising the minimum wage to \$15 by 2015 in California.

This labor attempt to make the low wage workers for a living wage has been used by the labor and strategy to mobilize support for anti-unionism. The strategy is to make a demand for a living wage for the Bay Area and who would call for \$15 an hour to the living wage for the Bay Area but who for a way to make the labor movement with a sub-living wage demand as the center to unite with the unemployed. These

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The Causes of Capitalist Crisis; Reply to Andrew Kliman

<http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/articles/17458/20-09-2013/the-causes-of-capitalist-crisis-reply-to-andrew-kliman>

CWG Editorial Comment

It holds to the TRPF but calls it a mono-cause and adds wage squeeze, underconsumption, etc., as additional causes without seeing that the TRPF explains them. It claims 'transitional method' and 'dialectics' etc., against Kliman, which up to a point we agree with. We think Kliman is an academic state capitalist (i.e. Third Camper) and while defending the TRPF actually subtracts from its dialectics into empiricism.

The CWI reformist electoralism can be traced back to its method. The CWI fails to show that the TRPF is the lawful expression of the contradiction between the workers needs and capitalists' profits and explains all the concrete effects of class struggle over the tendency and counter tendencies so the objective and subjective aspects are combined.

Ultimately the counter tendencies amount to raising the rate of exploitation. Cheaper raw materials, cutting wages, privatization, taxing workers, etc., all come back to the rate of exploitation. The tendency vs. counter tendencies show that it is the massive struggles of the working class side of the contradiction - need - that prevents capital from raising the rate of exploitation fast enough to compensate for the rising organic composition. Rising wages or falling wages (underconsumption) are both symptoms of the TRPF as they are only partial aspects of surplus value and do not determine it.

This means revolutionaries need to advance transitional demands like the living wage and occupying, defending and expropriating vacant housing (which seem to be the two main areas inadequately addressed by the CWI) to demonstrate that a living wage and adequate housing is impossible for capital to meet when activated by the formation of independent workers councils, communes, and a workers party, etc., as this prevents increasing exploitation and resolves the contradiction between the forces and relations in favor of the working class.



Unemployed Council rally demands "Jobs" and "Compensation at Trade Union Wages". Today's labor-fakers followed by reformist socialists parrot the Democratic Party in calling for a poverty minimum wage. Historically the working class has fought for a prevailing living wage, a union wage. Organize the unorganized "wall to wall" into unions to fight for the prevailing union rate and compensation and jobs for all!

Cont. from pg. 1 Sewer Socialism...

ments who opportunistically seek union offices divorced from a class struggle program of transitional demands. They end up becoming the very same class-collaborationist labor fakers they once despised.

In Richmond, CA, Sawant's allies the Greens, have partnered with the union busting Veolia corporation administering a privatized water supply. We get no response when asking the Green mayor or the Richmond Progressive Alliance about why they have not resumed control over the city's water supply; why they have not municipalized this service; why they allow the [union busting Veolia corporation](#) to rip profits from a city and residents already on the financial rack? We look at Sawant's friends and have to wonder what Seattle's new "socialist" city council person will do?

There may very well be "wins" in certain regions for a \$15 minimum wage, such as in SeaTac near Seattle, where the cost of living is high. To think that this will transform into a national raise hike to \$15 for low-wage workers absent mass workers struggle is simply utopian, despite certain sections of the ruling class advocating such. In [Class Warrior #5](#) we explained the history of the minimum wage as a Rooseveltian Democrat plan to keep a large and growing section of the working class employed at a sub-living standard. The CWG will certainly applaud any steps Sawant takes to advance the work-

ing class towards fighting capitalism, just as we would support any actual concrete measure to raise wages for low-wage workers to \$15 per hour as a partial reform. But it is not the job of socialists to breed illusions in a possible liberal reform of capitalism (underconsumptionism of MR, Sweezy and Baran, or the pump priming minimum wage raise of Krugman and Reich.) This mystification is the task of the liberals and the reformists and they certainly don't need any help. Our job is to push the class forward to develop a political class consciousness capable of abolishing this system. We fight for the historical working class demands and method as raised by [Trotsky's Transitional Program](#).

The Socialism of Dentists: Why Cannon was a Wobbly

What Cannon described as the "socialism of the dentists" in his interviews with Theodore Draper, is half of what drove him to active IWW membership and inactive Socialist Party membership in the years before 1917, much as he loved Eugene V. Debs and campaigned for him. The other half of his motive was the great divide between the SP's worker membership and the "theoreticals," the petty bourgeois factionalists (see the book [The First Ten Years of American Communism](#).) Our point about this is that socialists held office in the US in the first half of the 20th century, altogether they failed to lead the working class onto the revolutionary road.

The Sawant platform abandoned labor's traditional demands for a sliding scale of wages and hours to fight for jobs for all by spreading the work around (30 hours work for 40 hours pay). We have yet to meet a worker who opposes these demands! Yet the Mensheviks will line up at microphones around the world to tell you this is an unrealizable demand in this historic period. And for Sawant, "affordable housing" is not housing as a right (free, quality housing for all.) In a [Salon interview](#) the day after her election, Sawant calls for the liberal single-payer healthcare as opposed to free, quality socialized medicine for all. Socialist Alternative, the CWI in the USA, reprised their 2003 pamphlet on organizing fast food that could have been written by any honcho in the Retail Wholesale and Department Store Union or an SEIU bureaucrat (the Share the Pain group) or AFL-AID patriot. So she really is not off to a good start.

From the www.SocialistAlternative.org website pamphlet Manifesto of the Fast Food Worker:

"If minimum wage today had the same buying power as the minimum wage in 1968 it would be \$10.55 an hour.

Because of the deepening crisis of the capitalist system and the drive of big business to defend their profits at the expense of the working class, low-wage jobs are becoming a bigger portion of the total economy.

These heroic workers are taking a stand, and we, as socialists, give them our unconditional support. Fast Food Forward, backed by New York Communities for Change (NYCC), UnitedNY.org, the Black Institute, and SEIU, is the biggest attempt ever to organize fast food workers, and this is only the beginning in New York.

One of their demands is for \$15 per hour in pay. This is significant, as many low-wage battles have called for much more modest pay increases. By asking for \$15 they're going beyond saying they want a little more. The message is: "we deserve a living wage." In truth, \$15 per hour in New York City is not enough to live on for some, especially those with families, but it's an enormous step in that direction.

Fast food workers are not the only ones taking bold measures to fight for better conditions. On November 23, 2012, Black Friday, there were actions at upwards of 1,000 Walgreens across the country, with workers demanding



Unemployed workers in St. Louis demand "Jobs for All" and "Union Wages", 1931.

no retaliation for speaking up, better hours, and \$13 per hour in pay. These actions were not just one-off events, but are part of an on-going campaign of Walmart workers."

Is this how you fight for the most exploited? Even admitting that \$15 is not a livable wage? In reality, workers and the oppressed will wrest from the bosses what they have the power to win through struggle. This is not where the FF\$15 organized by the Democratic Party union bureaucracy is coming from.

The discussion of the buying power of the minimum wage in 1968 is a false discussion, as employment now requires you to have a smart phone, a computer, and pay the service fees for these electronic devices. In 1968 there was no pay TV in the US, now there is nothing but bills for all your entertainment and information. Inordinate rent rises force workers to live at a greater distance from their jobs while transportation costs have risen at a rate exceeding inflation, tolls, and gasoline prices have soared, etc., while Veolia and the likes have privatized the once not-for-profit transit systems. The minimum wage was never confined to the youth wage and the sexist "pin money" categories of employment. Since 1938 it has been a permanent drag pulling against the workers securing a share of the increases in the productivity of their labor power.

Boeing Threatens to Leave Town and Sawant Responds Reformistically

Boeing is the world's #1 producer of large commercial aircraft (i.e., above 21,500 lbs., "large" defined by Federal Aviation Regulation.) Any idea that they don't make a profit is either laughable or imaginative accounting. Their core business fixtures and equipment replacement and cost overruns are massively subsidized by the military budget. Their attempt to extort concessions from the Machinists is ideologically based in the political/economic season of the robber baron capitalists. It is nothing other than a quest for rate-of-profit bragging rights in a world where the Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall (TRPF) is eating alive small-fry manufacturers on every continent. And just as in the Bay Area of California, the bourgeoisie has mounted a renewed attack on workers' right to a retirement pension. This is an issue between the Bay Area Council and the BART workers and likewise between Boeing and the IAM. As we write, Boeing continues its charade claiming a dozen international cities are vying for a new plant to build Boeing's new airliner. But this is more extortion aimed at the State of Washington lawmakers, who will sweeten Boeing's deal like good hirelings to make up for concessions Boeing failed to extract from the IAM membership.

Because the federal government is an exceptional case of utter corruption, even com-

pared to that of Napoleon III of France ([The Civil War in France](#)), and because Boeing has been a Federal contractor continuously since 1917, you can expect the lawmakers, courts and police to act politically like a dependency of Boeing. So a battle to not only keep the airliner business in Renton but also for workers' control would require nationalization without compensation to the "owners," who assuredly would not be pauperized, exactly so that the work week could be reduced to 30 hours with no reduction in pay. The laid off can then be rehired. This would not just stop layoffs and technological unemployment, but would make possible hiring and training thousands of youth who until then continue to face a bleak "no future" in Capital's "Law of Value" labor market.

And as we pointed out above, Boeing will, up to some point, have all the resources of the Federal government behind them in such a battle. To achieve victory over the "owners/management" requires answers to two questions at once: 1. how much support do the machinists need, and 2. which social class should rule, i.e., determine policies, collect and spend taxes, make and enforce laws? Does the CWI standard bearer or any of her comrades tell the machinists this will require a coast-to-coast battle of the entire air transport industry and its suppliers? And as for which class should rule, it will not be [Sawant's or NBC-TV's "middle class,"](#) an idea alien to Marxist politics and economics, but rather workers, the self-organized deliberative bodies of the workers and the oppressed. To not say so is to engage in a popularity contest, disrespecting workers intelligence generally and planning to deliver "sewer socialism."

Many want to paint us as sectarians right now for not "giving her a chance." Of course we will give her a chance. We can scarcely do otherwise. We are as delighted as anyone else that a person self-described as a socialist has been elected. And we do know that some people learn from and develop up and away from their mistakes; likewise we are not in the original sin business, like some actual sectarians who snort at all electoral politics, expressing the bravado of the petty bourgeois ineffectuals. Let her do what is objectively called for in this crisis and we'll praise her work; let her continue down the rails of the CWI's whole record in this crisis and we will be her most acute critics.

In the tradition and words too of our revolutionary forebear Eugene Victor Debs we remind workers that "It is always better to vote for what you want and not get it than to

vote for what you DON'T WANT and get it." Is it better to get elected with the support of the "Democrats for Sawant" who see in her the proponent of a "middle class" Keynesianism their own incumbent Democrat in the contested City Council seat eschews, as he carries the bourgeois party's austerity line? Who then is the tail and whom the dog? She advocates a minimum wage of \$15. There is a concept and a number, both agreeable to a wing of the bourgeoisie. We see the NY Times comes out in favor of it. This means the Sulzbergers and the biggest NY realtors, as well as mouthpieces like Reich and Krugman and big money reformist robber barons like George Soros. Their judgment is the domestic market is out of whack, with too little purchasing power available to the masses given the productivity increases of recent years. Where the TRPF's mechanism for busting the economy in 2008 was financialization of bogus home loans and linked cynical/criminal hedge fund betting, this wing of the bourgeoisie fears an immense pile of inventories they can't sell to a generation with nothing extra to spend in a race to the bottom economy where consumer credit has not "recovered."

As we have said in "Class Warrior" no. 5, the "minimum wage" is a plank in the program of the Rooseveltian Democrats. It was part of their answer to the "second depression" of 1937-38 and was a plan to exempt many millions of workers in perpetuity from receiving a living wage, never mind enjoying any American dream. Trotskyists, as opposed to neo-Kautskyans and other late-model Mensheviks, make no concession to the idea that some may starve and many will be permitted to work only so long as they understand there will be no family or other future for them. Fifteen dollars is not a "living wage" unless you live wall-to-wall in a slum or live at home with your parents and/or work two or more jobs!

Like Trotsky we say our program calls for a living wage defined by labor as the prevailing rate, and jobs for all and the union rate for the unemployed as well; it is a question of the survival of the one productive class in society, and therefore anyone arguing that this is unrealizable or will never happen is no friend of our social class.

Fifteen dollars an hour is also a plan for increasing the "economic draft" in preparation for interimperialist war, since it does nothing and contemplates nothing to provide increased civilian employment. In many places the capital flight to Asia, Mexico, etc., was

double whammied by the WalMart blight on small business employment even before the stock market crash. It certainly did not disturb the lords of finance that the armed services were the only ones hiring in some places when they were having to resort to "stop loss" to keep their imperialist wars going.

You will want to read the discussion of the "minimum wage," the method of the Transitional Program and its relevance to the errors of the Transport Workers Solidarity Committee in the recent and sadly misled strikes of the BART and AC Transit systems in northern California. [Class Warrior #5](#) contains lessons for every worker.

IT'S TIME TO ORGANIZE LOW WAGE RETAIL AND FAST FOOD INDUSTRY WIDE!



As the capitalist crisis continues in America, an increasingly grim situation has witnessed flashes of hope. The Wisconsin capitol occupation, the militant ILWU Longview struggle, the Occupy protests and the [Chicago Teachers'](#) and [BART](#) strikes are all examples of the unions' membership desire to fight. But there was a dearth of leadership with class/political consciousness capable of securing victories in these struggles. Instead, we have seen either outright betrayal by the likes of the union bureaucracy and the reformists (ISO/Solidarity) or a placing of limits on the struggles' aims by a disdain for working class political independence (anarchists/IWW and the economist tendencies,) keeping these struggles within the orbit of what is politically acceptable to liberals within the Democratic Party. The recent nationwide Wal-Mart and fast food actions are other flash points of class struggle that have the potential to start rolling back the ruling class attacks. On December 5th in Oakland, a McDonald's was [shut down](#) for an hour by militant workers and supporters who demanded wage increases to \$15/hr. and a union.

Unfortunately though, the Wal-Mart and fast food protests have largely focused not on the self-organization of these workers into labor unions and mass strike action that shuts down these employers, but on the call to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hr, essentially a "Leftist" tail of the Democratic Party's cynical political ploy to raise the minimum

The following leaflet was distributed by the CWG during the BART strike:

BART WORKERS: TURN THE TIDE!

HOLD MASS MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS THAT REJECT CONCESSIONARY BARGAINING!

BART, AC TRANSIT, OUT OF CONTRACT UNIONS AND LOW WAGE WORKERS UNITE TO INITIATE THE INDEFINITE GENERAL STRIKE!

Today the leaders of the Alameda Labor Council and the ATU are more defined by their membership in the Democratic Party than by their membership in the ATU or the labor movement.

Shutting the July BART strike after only four days was no "blunder" or tactical "mistake" but a logical counterpart and equivalent to the cynical Wisconsin Governor Walker recall campaign, likewise designed to subvert the mass workers mobilization away from strike actions and occupation into the electoral trap.

SMASH ANTI-LABOR LAWS THROUGH SOLID UNITED SOLIDARITY STRIKES! AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!

Like the AFL-CIO and Change to Win tops our local leaders are Democrats first and union members second and they think this is normal. This is why they cannot fight the bosses consistently. ASK: which side are they really on?

They have no intention to fight the anti-labor Taft Hartley Act which bans solidarity and general strikes. The moment the bosses mention going to the judge to seek injunctions or a Democratic politician threatens legislation against essential service strikes they make concessions. These threatened bans on strikes for "essential services" will affect nurses, sanitation, transit, firefighters, and presumably even the mighty ILWU at the docks.

The Democrats are the party of the bosses lock stock and barrel. To expect them to fight for the workers interests after 150 years of experience is a con and only passes for realism in the circles of the privileged and those who are on an electoral career track. A militant class struggle union is another animal altogether. There is always another tactic if you believe the victory of the workers is indispensable. To discern what the correct tactic for victories is requires a militant working class independent political program; a program developed in mass workers assemblies and tested in the fire of class war.

The working class in the US faces a crisis leading to its pauperization and destruction unless a resurgent rank and file starts a militant

class struggle course today by rejecting the concessionary contract, electing a strike committee to replace the compromised negotiators and convening mass assemblies of labor and the oppressed to launch and extend the strike the BART directors and Jerry Brown are forcing on us.

Along with the sad Democrat class collaborator union leaders we have a local left that is also nothing like a militant leadership. They can't find the practical means to unite with the most oppressed and most underpaid and exploited workers. For this left it is too thorny a political question and they find the historical demand for Jobs for All to be 'unrealizable' and 'ultraleft.' They forget that there are two full employment acts of congress that are still on the books with their mandate unfulfilled.

AT THE VARIOUS BART WORKERS SOLIDARITY RALLIES WE MUST TAKE DEMANDS THAT UNITE WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE TO THE STREETS: FOR STRIKE COMMITTEES THAT ESTABLISH LABOR/COMMUNITY WAGE AND PRICE COMMITTEES THAT DEFINE A LIVING WAGE, FIGHT FOR AND ENFORCE A SLIDING SCALE OF WAGES AND PRICES!

When we have the strike we will have as many marches and rallies as we need to mobilize all Bay Area workers in support of our strike. But in the short term we need mass membership meetings of the Bay Area Unions and all those fighting to organize, be they in industrial, retail, distribution or fast food, in order to make the defense of the workers standard of living a true class combat that none of the bosses and their scabs can defeat.

A strike is being forced upon us by the BART board and the Democratic Party. As a practical matter this necessitates sorting out and removing the professional Democrats from all elected and appointed union and labor council posts. Make no gamble on leaders with feet in two class camps. Striking locals need strike committee leaders who are elected and recallable and directly responsible to mass meetings of the rank and file.

The rank and file needs to directly control all negotiations and the strike preparations such as self-defense and legal training for pickets, organization of flying picket squads, and mass public meetings, rallies and marches. Meetings and marches should be held in all communities of the working class and oppressed. This will require a frank discussion of defense against victimization of any and all workers' meetings and actions at the hands of the bosses' police, including the need to defend working class political prisoners and victimized union militants like Brother George Figueroa. We need to make the rehiring, reinstatement and retroactive pay for Brother Figueroa non-negotiable! They made victimizing him their example; we need to make his restitution our example!

Fighting for full employment is the key to self defense through class unity:

The regime of capital cannot deliver full employment and as a matter of philosophy in the present day does not want to deliver it. It is when stock prices soar that it has proved possible to wage their austerity assault against labor because they have the happy circumstance of an official 7.5% unemployment. It is this which plays a major role in permitting them to continue their uninterrupted attack on workers organizations. While our class suffers this high unemployment between 2009 and 2011, the richest Americans grabbed an additional 7% of the total wealth of the nation.

MAKE CAPITAL PAY FOR FREE QUALITY MASS TRANSIT, EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE AND PENSIONS! The bosses make us pay to come to work for them, for the education they require of their workers, for the health care we need to come back to work each day and our pensions as deferred wages either in their plans or social security!

In this circumstance, unlike those who call for a 'tax the rich' campaign which delivers more treasury monies to the bosses pet politicians to spend on the bosses pet projects, we maintain that transit should be free, free and quality health care should be a right as should education, and a pension to guarantee dignity in old age with guaranteed COLA's. To achieve the full employment concretized in the demand 'Jobs for All,' a movement of the entire class will fight for 30 hours work for 40 hours pay. This is necessary so as to employ all the able and prevent the erosion of workers' ability to feed and house themselves and their offspring. These demands correspond to what would be part of the program of a Fighting Workers' Labor party. We advocate such a party. We know we need it.

A Fighting Workers' Labor Party would set as its goal and never be diverted from its historic mission to form a workers government. This government would break, suppress and utterly replace, in a word, smash the political dictatorship of capital which today gives the BART directors all the power of the state and its institutions to use against you.

Make no mistake we are at war. This is a class war. It can only be resolved with the victory of one side or the other. Our task is to unite our class around our demands and the objective needs of the most oppressed and exploited for their economic, social and political liberation.

UNITE LABOR & COMMUNITY TO BUILD THE SOLIDARITY RALLY & MARCH OCT 8th 5PM Oscar Grant Plaza 14th & Broadway Oakland



Israel has bombed [Syrian](#) and [Iraqi](#) nuclear facilities and continues to [threaten to destroy](#) Iran's nuclear facilities. Moreover the major imperialist powers have nuclear [powered fleets](#) which if involved in military hostilities would endanger their reactors. Even without war there is a [long list](#) of nuclear accidents and release of radiation. All this is the living proof that as capitalism nears the end of its existence it intensifies its destruction of the forces of production. Today this has taken an unforeseen dramatic turn. The destruction of the forces of production today all fuse into the global destruction of anthropogenic climate catastrophe and the threat of human extinction.

Risk is real, not hypothetical or alarmist

Nuclear plants are too risky, too expensive, too insecure and too slow to build in the time left us. The danger of nuclear meltdown is top of the list. Fukushima and TEPCO are evidence of the negligent design and operation of nuclear power plants. Far from rescuing capitalism from climate change there is the 'potential' for nuclear meltdowns due to climate collapse. Both Chernobyl and Fukushima were Level 7 (highest known) meltdowns caused by human failure. Chernobyl involved [operator error](#) compounded by design deficiencies and inadequate operating instructions. [Fukushima](#) was built on a fault line, without adequate protection from a tsunami, and also had major design deficiencies. Climate collapse adds much greater risks of 'accidents' as an exponential increase in extreme weather events that will render many existing plants vulnerable to flooding. This is why nuclear plants should be closed down now before they are inundated by storms and floods and no new ones built by big nuclear subsidised by the dominant imperialist states.

The standard rejoinder of nuclear advocates is that the risk of nuclear meltdowns and

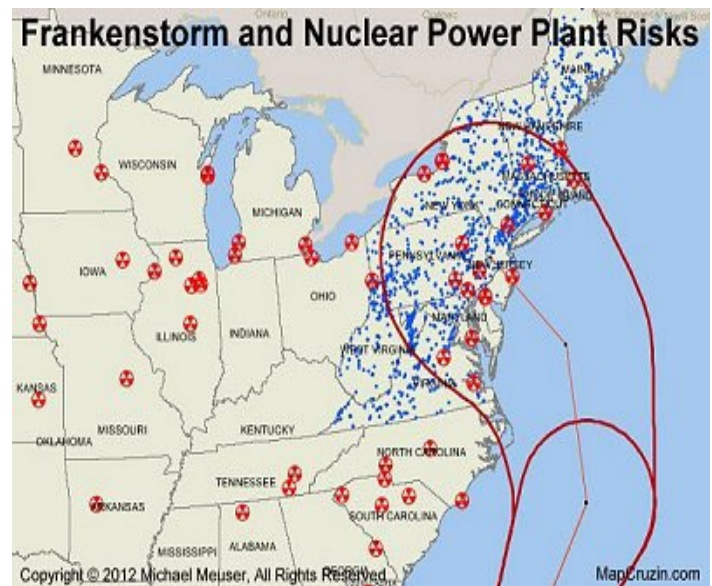
resulting harm is [vastly overstated](#) by anti-nuclear campaigners. Or at least, as Hansen et al argue, these known dangers are much less than that of carbon induced global warming. The official method of measuring radiation poisoning originates from methods of measuring doses of radiation from nuclear weapons. But obviously there are also longer term [environmental and health](#) effects. There are huge differences in which measures one uses. Monbiot, for example, quotes from the UN agency Unsear for his numbers of 43 dead from Chernobyl, while Caldicott and others think this agency [covers up](#) and lies about the true extent of health effects and quotes the NY Academy of Sciences review of a mass of epidemiological research. More important than Chernobyl as an indicator of future risk from climate change are the measurable effects of the Fukushima meltdown because they simulate the extreme weather conditions associated with climate collapse.

We have already seen nuclear plants flooded in the US. In 1992 Hurricane Andrew caused major damage to the [Turkey Point](#) plant in Florida. [Fort Calhoun in Nebraska](#) was shut down because of flooding in July 2011 and remains [shutdown](#). Nuclear [whistleblowers](#) in the US claim that there no adequate preparation for upstream [dam failures](#) facing many plants. During Hurricane Sandy more than a dozen plants on the eastern seaboard were threatened and the oldest nuclear plant in the US, [Oyster Creek](#) in New Jersey, was shut down as flood water came within two feet of its backup

diesel cooling system. So, climate change is already bringing extreme weather events that are testing the poor design and safety of existing nuclear plants. Since Fukushima, US nuclear plants have been subjected to inspections and found wanting, the worst being at [Monticello](#), Minnesota. [Heat waves](#) in Europe have caused problems with nuclear plants that have to be shut down.

Fukushima Daiichi warns of nuclear Armageddon

The disaster at Fukushima has altered the debate dramatically. Here we have a combination of design defects and administrative blunders combining with a natural disaster – a 9 point earthquake and a massive tsunami. Here is the 'perfect storm' that simulates what many argue will be the future natural disasters compounded by extreme climate change. Again, Fukushima has produced both sides of the debate, but now ramped up many decibels in response to the potential extreme threat. On the pro-nuclear side Fukushima supports the need for a nuclear future. A [Forbes writer](#) claims that the radiation leaks from Fukushima



are no worse than eating bananas. In any case like Hansen et al, the writer claims the risks of Fukushima leakages are far less than continued carbon burning. He states that the German decision to close the nuclear stations means much greater reliance on damaging brown coal burning plants. He concludes:

"The point being that Fukushima went through absolutely the worst natural disaster that the world could throw at a nuclear plant: and yes, that plant was wrecked but wrecking the plant hasn't killed anyone and won't do. The amazing thing about nuclear power is not how dangerous it is but how safe it is. And given that we do indeed need to have some power if we're to keep this civilisation thing on the road, given that renewables simply cannot scale up in time, we're going to have to replace some of our fossil fuel fired generating capacity with more nuclear. Which is exactly what Hansen et al are pointing out."

The anti-Nuclear side point out that the real threat has not yet been revealed. While the effects of Chernobyl forced the authorities to disclose what led to the disaster and the small numbers of deaths are seriously challenged, in Fukushima we still have a lot of political and corporate secrecy and denial. [Koide Hiroaki](#) is a nuclear engineer and one time advocate of nuclear power who now wants these plants closed down. A long-time critic of nuclear energy, after March 11, 2011 he is now seen as a sort of official nuclear ['whistleblower'](#) in Japan. Not only has Koide exposed the safety defects of nuclear plants, he links this fact to the secretive corporate state regime that disregards public safety. His message is clear, the plant's containment systems were destroyed by the earthquake and tsunami and the leaking of radiation continues and is [not](#)



[under control](#). Existing levels of emissions are much worse than consuming bananas and future emissions and their [health effects](#) are as yet unknown. The [latest information](#) on emissions is very scary. There is an excellent coverage of Fukushima by [Japan Focus](#).

It is clear that far from convincing us that Fukushima has survived the worst that even global warming can throw at us proving the viability of a nuclear future, on the contrary, the verdict of Fukushima on the future of nuclear power generation is very much in the balance. Japan is proving that once the real human costs of nuclear disasters become known, public opinion is mobilised and far from settling for more carbon burning as envisaged by the Abe Government, can become the [decisive factor](#) in the rapid growth of renewables. What the pro-nuclear lobby fails to recognise is that public pressure in Japan, Germany and other countries is now making possible the viability of energy renewables to replace coal, oil and gas plants.

Renewables come cheaper and faster

At the same time as downplaying the risk of nuclear disasters the pro-nuclear advocates underestimate the viability of renewables such as solar, wind and biomass based

on increased cost efficiency even without the nuclear industries massive state subsidies. Renewables are already competing with nuclear and increasing their share and do not take 10 years or more to

construct. Moreover the multibillions needed for new nuclear plants takes money away from the rapid expansion of renewables.

In a [comment](#) to an article on the call in the Hansen et al Open Letter for nuclear power as an alternative to burning carbon, Amory B. Lovins from the *Rocky Mountain Institute* wrote:

"There's an important missing point here: Building new nuclear power plants would reduce and retard the climate protection that Drs. Hansen et al. (and I) want. Why? Because new nuclear power plants (of any kind) are so costly and slow to build that they'd save ~3-20x less carbon per dollar and ~20-40x less carbon per year than investing the same money in efficiency, cogeneration, and modern renewables. This unavoidable conclusion from these technologies' empirically observed market prices and deployment speeds was summarized in 2009. I wonder if Drs. Hansen et al. would please enlighten us about exactly why they believe renewables cannot scale fast enough. The empirical data show that non-hydro renewables are adding 80+ GW/y, have already added more capacity in less than a decade than nuclear power has achieved in a half-century, and are attracting a quarter-trillion dollars of private capital per year. Nuclear energy is losing capacity (and was even before Fukushima), will soon fall behind nonhydro renewables in output as it already has in capacity (even China's nuclear power was outgenerated last year by its windpower), and is unfinanceable in the capital markets."

More fundamentally, non-hydro renewables are scalable, mass-producible manufactured products. They're exploiting the economies of mass production and fast marketwide installation that for nuclear power are a remote hope—and unrealistic due to poor economics. It's strange to tout new reactors when the US has terminated 14 operating or planned ones this year alone because just their operating cost can't compete. If the concern is the supposed challenges of grid integration, I'd invite the authors to explain why Germany and Denmark (with 23% and 41% renewable electricity in 2012) have Europe's most reliable electricity, and how the lights stay on in Spain (48% in the first half of 2013) and Portugal (70%), all without new bulk storage. Of course, the cheapest and fastest options are on the demand side. U.S. weather-adjusted electricity use per dollar of real GDP fell 3.4% last year alone, and we're barely scratching the surface of profitable efficiency."





Sizewell nuclear power plant, seen from across the sea at Southwold, Suffolk.

Workers Power!

While the capitalist market is already showing that energy renewables are cheaper, more efficient and practicable as the alternative to burning carbon, state monopoly capitalism is driven by massive energy corporates that have interests in pushing coal, oil, gas and nuclear rather than energy renewables. To reach carbon zero in time, the international working class will have to come to the rescue. Capitalism is turning the world into a ball of fire. Socialism is necessary for survival! Facing capitalist crisis and climate meltdown, the working class needs a Transitional Program that can meet their needs.

- Basic demands for decent jobs, wages, houses, transport, health, education, social security etc all pose the urgent necessity for workers to self-organise their own class power!
- We demand the immediate closing down of coal and gas plants (other than emergency backups) through worker occupations of big oil and its operations.
- We must demand the transfer of the multi-billion state subsidies to big nuclear be spent instead on rapidly expanding solar and other renewables to reach zero carbon within two decades.
- We demand a crash program of public works in renewables to meet the climate collapse deadline of 2040 and to put the industries under workers control and administration. Energy production must be socialised under the democratic control of the working people!
- Opposition to our basic survival demands by the ruling class including the public relations campaign for a new nuclear future will prove there is no way to stop the potential destruction of the planet other than to overthrow the capitalist ruling class and replacing it with a Workers Government and a socialist society. Without this we cannot act in time to prevent human extinction, restore the social balance with nature, and plan social production based on safe and sustainable energy sources.

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Review of: Going Dark?

Guy R. McPherson

Publish America, Baltimore, 2013.

Guy McPherson is rapidly gaining a reputation as Guy 'McStinction' as the climate scientist who is predicting [near-term human extinction](#) "beyond the 2030"s. He makes the case that Climate Collapse (CC) is upon us and that only industrial collapse could stop it. When that happens we as a species will as he says, "Go dark" as it becomes extinct. The [26 positive feedback loops](#) (PFLs – causal chains that are self-reinforcing and increase exponentially) are many and almost all are already beyond human control. McPherson accepts that against all odds there are (currently) two positive feedbacks that we can influence. These are the ones that set all the other PFBs in motion. Broadly they are the extraction and burning of fossil fuel. The only way McPherson thinks we can reverse and stop those positive feedbacks is for industrial civilisation to collapse. The problem is that while McPherson has the scientific credentials to understand and explain CC, he lacks these credentials when it comes to explaining the industrial civilisation that caused it. One requirement of science is that if you are postulating human action to stop an effect you need to understand the cause. Before we talk about 'industry' collapsing we need to know what it is and how to make it collapse.

McPherson has a good grasp of industrial society as that of 'empire' controlled by corporations. He sees industrial society ruled by those in power now using a [police state and NSA](#) to keep a hold over the people. He hoped that the Global Financial Crisis of 2008 would bring about the collapse of industrial society. But that did not happen. The big banks and big business rallied with big bailouts and bonuses from big government that then turned the big cops on Occupy. Far from collapsing, the monopoly capitalist state then embarked on a crash program to extract and burn all known fossil fuels to boost profits. What will it take to build a citizens crash program to stop the corporate crash program turning the planet into a ball of fire? McPherson's response to this is the need for 'total revolution', 'anarchy' and 'freedom' but he has no road map for how this can be made possible. This is the main problem with *Going Dark* and the rest of this review is about spelling out that crash socialist program for survival.

Capitalist crisis meets Climate Catastrophe

Why didn't the 2008 GFC bring about the collapse of industrial civilisation? The short answer is that the capitalist class did not allow it to collapse. Industry is capitalist industry owned and controlled by capitalists. They are motivated by profits which they screw out of the working class surplus-value. Capitalism is a dynamic contradiction. It develops technology to increase labor productivity to get more surplus-value out of workers. But the consequence of this is the increase in investment in the tools of production (machines etc) that cannot produce value, relative to the wages of productive workers, who do. This is the famous [organic composition](#) of capital. This sows the seeds of crisis in the form of the Tendency of the Rate of Profit to Fall (TRPF). The capitalists fight the TRPF with counter-tendencies, plundering the world for cheap resources, cutting wages, and of course inventing better machines to make labor more productive. But inevitably the capitalists cannot screw enough surplus value out of workers to make a profit on their investment and the TRPF wins. A crisis of falling profits results leading to a fall in investment, the classic capitalist slump, and an overproduction of capital which must be devalued to restore the rate of profit. The last major slump began in the 1970s but despite devaluations of capital, particularly in the neo-liberal years, surplus capital remained. It found an outlet in speculating in existing values creating fictitious values was above true values. The 2008 GFC was a collapse of several of these overvalued speculative markets, beginning with housing but spreading to the whole banking system. To prevent this system collapsing along with these fictitious values, the banks were bailed out by central banks which created \$trillions of debt to be paid for by future generations of workers in cuts to living standards - hours, wages, pensions, conditions etc. But \$trillions of fictitious values remain to be destroyed before profits recover back to their post-WW2 boom levels.

The GFC did not lead to the collapse of industrial civilisation because it was no more than a symptom of that long decline as capitalism exhausts its capacity to plunder the earth and the labor value of workers sufficient to sustain its profits. The capitalist class treated the symptom of an ailing capitalism but it has not yet been able to cure the disease - falling profits. This explains why the ruling class is ruthlessly mining, drilling, fracking the earth, and ruthlessly spying, militarising, and repressing workers, activists

and 'terrorists' who resist its headlong rush to destruction. It is the crisis-ridden capitalist system in *extremis* that accounts for the polarisation of the global population where the ruling class, with its political parties, fake social movements, and media bullshit oppress the global working class which is fighting to survive as part of the natural world that parasitic capitalism threatens to make extinct. This contradiction is becoming more extreme and can be resolved in favour of nature and humanity only by the international working class, the proletariat, overthrowing and replacing the capitalist system.

Green capitalists and socialists

McPherson's terms, 'anarchism', 'freedom' and 'total revolution' are subversive concepts, but they need to be translated into revolutionary strategy and tactics to overthrow capitalism. Logically, 'total revolution' is the only course of action in stopping the positive feedbacks still within our control. If we succeed then survival makes 'Freedom' possible. But are 'Anarchism', 'ecosocialism' and even 'Marxism' up to the task? The first test is to reject 'Green Capitalism' which is both utopian and reactionary. Utopian, because capitalism cannot coexist in harmony with nature; reactionary because it limits itself to "peaceful civil disobedience" as a sort of passive-aggressive behavior; activist against the 'corporate elite' but pacifist against capitalism. Who are the Green Capitalists? [James Hansen](#) calling for more nuclear power; [Bill McKibben](#)'s 350.org and anti-Keystone campaigns funded by Rockefeller and other business foundations to the tune of \$10million to stop the tar-sands and shale fracking; [Climate Ground Zero](#) and the defenders of Coal River Mountain, or [Greenpeace](#) climate activism all over the world. All assume it possible to stop fossil fuel burning without overthrowing capitalism. While they 'act out' this passive aggression the positive feedbacks keep burning us up.

'Total Revolution' also means going beyond [Green Socialism](#) (or ecosocialism) which claims that socialism can be achieved by redistributing the world's wealth and stopping capitalist growth without smashing the capitalist state and creating a centralised workers government. This is Green capitalism with a socialist gloss. It deludes workers into the belief that capitalists can be made to forgo their carbon burning destructive profiteering without making them pay dearly with loss of livelihoods and loss of lives. The best known advocate of Green Socialism is John Bellamy Foster, Professor of Sociology at the University of Oregon. Forster shares with the

Green capitalists the belief that we have the time to mobilise to stop climate change by pushing for reforms. He [critiques Hansen](#) et al for failing to see that capitalism will repress any direct action to enforce a carbon tax but at the same time pins his hopes on such reforms leading to the development of revolutionary consciousness. Such reforms include a carbon tax, opposition to capitalist waste, to capitalist growth that does not meet needs and so on. The problem is we do not have the time for a struggle for reforms that may lead to revolution. Marxists have always argued that reforms only result when the bosses want to head off a revolution. We have to take action now to shut down oil and gas plants as well as the major industries that rely on them such as the auto and plastics industries. Inevitably such mass direct action targeting the ruling class right to rule will bring down the spy, anti-terror state forces on activists and prove to those on the reformist road that a leap to revolution that destroys the capitalist state is necessary.

'Total Revolution' and Survival Socialism

For Marx the forces of production included nature (importantly the labor-power of workers) that was subordinated to capitalist production for profit. The capitalist exploitation of nature did at that time not pose Climate Catastrophe. Today we are faced with consequences of centuries of capitalist plunder - a blowback by nature. This is not *anthropogenic* but *capitalogenic* Climate Collapse. For thousands of years before capitalism humans had to coexist as part of nature. So it is not 'human' agency but capitalist agency that destroys the forces of production in its mad rush to exhaust millions of years of stored up carbon. For revolutionary Marxists capitalism is way past its due date. A socialist revolution is way overdue to stop the massive destruction of the forces of production (nature).

Yet while socialist revolution is necessary now there can be no immediate transition to a socialist society in which newly invented technology will allow the forces of production to developed in harmony with nature allowing a reduction in labor and a situation of plenty. First, the destruction of nature has to be stopped. The immediate priority will be the conservation of resources while a transition to new technology is developed along with a global plan that reorganises production on the basis of meeting the basic needs of all. For revolutionary Marxists then, 'total Revolution' means overthrowing capitalism and replacing it with a transitional workers government that acts to stop the carbon

burning feedback loop. Only if and when that has been achieved can production be planned sustainably to meet the needs of the 7 billion earthlings.

Climate change demands a 'total revolution' to dump corporate capitalism. 'Anarchism' is not sufficient. Anarchism is premised on the petty bourgeois individual who is a creature of capitalism. The proletariat is the progressive class within capitalism but whose historic mission is to be the 'gravediggers' of capitalism and the builders of socialism. The proletariat needs to control and conserve its resources to survive as part of nature. Grass roots movements like *Idle No More*, and trade unions and community activists, need to join forces as the universal struggle of the proletariat. This is class war. We need to organise democratically but act globally. This requires an international organisation – a world socialist party. We must take the power and wealth off the ruling class – take over the Banks and all the big business.. We must smash their state apparatus that indoctrinates us, spies on us and represses us.

The one positive feedback a revolution can stop is the capitalist exploitation of nature as the source of corporate profits. We as workers are the source of those profits. Our labor-power (along with the rest of nature) is the source of all wealth. We need to mobilise our own class power. We have to build a system of workers power to defeat the state power of the ruling class. That power has to be based on its source – our labor. We need to withdraw our labor in many strike actions that build into a General Strike that shuts down capitalist production world-wide. To hold onto this power we need to occupy the workplaces and defend them against the armed forces of the state. All of this will mean a program for an alternative society. This will start with local strike committees and defence committees that coordinate nationally and internationally. Here the various currents of anarchism, socialism and Marxism will debate strategy and tactics to win support for the best course of action. Arising from such committees will grow councils or communes where the working people will debate political tactics and plan the production of the consumables that we need to survive. There is no guarantee that we can do this, or that it will be enough to stop Capitalist Climate Collapse. But we cannot tell generation Zero to go quietly into the night. For revolutionary Marxists there is no question that we go with a bang and not a whimper!

Veolia “Robber Baron”: how do we hate thee? Let us count the ways....

Veolia Environmental is a French company founded in 1853 by what was called a “Robber Baron” in the US. In 2012 its revenue was 29,439 billion euros (40,505 billion dollars) and its profits were 394 million euros (542 million dollars). It employs 318,376 people (2012).

Veolia was founded as a water company to supply the city of Lyon, France. By 1860 it had expanded to supplying water to Paris. In 1976 Veolia diversified, via a series of takeovers, into waste management, energy, transport, construction and real property. In 1983, it expanded into communication.

In 1998, it changed its name to *Vivendi*, and sold off its property and construction divisions the following year, and then expanded into film. In 2000 it changed the water and waste management divisions into “Vivendi Environmental.” It changed its name again to “Veolia” in 2005 and is the largest private operator of water services in the world.

In March, 2011, Veolia Transportation was created. It has 110,000 employees in 28 countries. It has maintained its “Robber Baron” practices and anti-worker policies down to this day.

Veolia has managed to convince municipalities that it can make water systems more efficient. What it hides in that assertion is its focus on profit at the expense of entire public water systems; workers compensation and well-being, water distribution, system maintenance etc. In Indianapolis, Veolia's 20 year water contract was cancelled midway, and they were sued for overcharging customers, and the water quality sank to 11th worst in the country. Veolia's stories of failure and resource exploitation are repeated throughout the country, and St. Louis has recently torn up its contract with them.

Veolia had also come under the scrutiny of Palestinian Liberation groups for selling bus service to the illegal Israeli settlements and transporting waste from these settlements. Robber Baron opportunism at it's worst devoid of principle or humanity. Veolia won the \$500 million contract to operate and maintains the Jerusalem light rail system. This inside the wall system has been declared illegal by the [UN Human Rights Council](#).

The Amalgamated Transit workers Union (ATU) reported that “In Phoenix, AZ, privatization turned out to be a losing game for the city after the private contractor, Veolia, used a variety of tactics—including putting the mayor's girlfriend on their payroll—to get additional money out of the city after the contract was signed. Veolia originally underbid the closest competitor by nearly \$13 million, but lobbied the city for more money when the ATU refused to accept the harsh cuts such a contract would impose on workers” ([Phoenix New Times](#).)

In 2007, Capstone Law Group represented

a class action lawsuit against the company stating, “The Plaintiffs have brought the lawsuit against Veolia Transportation Services for failing to provide 10 minute rest breaks to fixed-route bus drivers. We believe that this is a violation of California's Labor Code....” So this is what our BART workers have to look forward to [[hyperlink to CW5](#)]. The behavior of the Bay Area Council and the employment of Thomas Hock and Veolia by the BART general director Grace Crunican suggests that the fix is already in; that politicians have been paid off or brought on board so as to destroy it, so they can privatize it, crush the union, run rough-shod over the public and run BART to maximize private profit in place of satisfying public need.

Veolia's heinous greed and destructive corporate policy is astutely outlined and summarized by [www.wateractivist.org](#), which states, “...the company's nightmarish vision of a future where the entire planet's increasingly scarce supply of water fit for human consumption is controlled as a commodity to be bought, sold, traded, marketed, managed and priced for the highest possible corporate profit.” Water is 40% of Veolia's business, and they plan to make the most basic human necessity unavailable to most of the planet for the sake of profit.

- Clean safe water is a human right!
- For workers/community control of all water supply and waste management systems.
- For workers/community control of public transit system.
- Smash, reverse, defeat privatization plans for all utilities and transit systems.
- Abolish capitalist ownership of water supply and waste management systems with no compensation to the “Robber Barons!”
- Tear down the apartheid wall! For working class solidarity with the Palestinian Liberation struggle.

Cont. from pg. 14 Fast Food....

wage to \$10.10 (in places \$11.50), and also a call that is in synch with sections of the ruling class and their spokespersons, such as Warren Buffet, Robert Reich and Paul Krugman.

We see the class collaborationist union bureaucracy, the liberals and the reformists diverting the masses from securing union protections of their wages and conditions, fighting for a living wage and a benefit package that is adequate to satisfy human needs. At a fast food rally in Iowa City, IA, an SEIU union bureaucrat let it slip out that \$10/hr. would be acceptable, which of course it is for the labor-fakers because it is very much in line with the Democratic Party leadership understanding:

“A frontline fast food worker in Iowa makes about \$8.62 an hour. That is barely a living wage for one person. It is about \$10 an hour less that somebody needs if they are supporting a child to live in Iowa...Iowa City. I mean that is sort of state-wide. So it's

Cont. pg. 21

virtually impossible...so raising the minimum wage...\$15 would be great. We'll take \$10. You know, these people are working very hard every day. And they're sort of invisible to most people. It's time...and they're saying, 'we are no longer invisible. We have families to support...'” – [SEIU 199 Chief Legal Counsel Jim Jacobson](#).

The logic of a union misleadership: *admittedly a worker supporting a child needs \$18.62 to survive, but we'll call for \$15, although \$10 is fine and dandy????!!!!* With unionization at a 97 year low in America and all out attacks on the working class and oppressed as the social gains of decades are rolled back, what the “Left” has to offer is a \$15 poverty wage, which is *instantly translated* to \$10 by the Democratic Party labor-fakers of the union bureaucracy!

Aside from the Ontario, CA, and other Wal-Mart warehouse workers' strikes, the fast food and Wal-Mart actions have for the most part not actually been strikes. Nor even attempts to organize the low wage retail and fast food industry, but have largely been rallies organized by the union bureaucracy such as SEIU tops under pressure from their own ranks and the expectations of the community. This is more in line with a losing labor corporate campaign that seeks to “embarrass” and put public pressure on a company through publicity stunts and reliance on the NLRB. This is far divorced from how the labor movement was built. Above all what counts is the organization, militancy, solidarity, class consciousness and leadership of the workers themselves. Hence, at the [Iowa City rally](#), the groups initiating the rally released an open letter addressed to fast food CEOs:

“We find it unconscionable that fast food CEOs take home millions while your frontline employees will have to work hundreds and hundreds of hours to earn what you earn in one hour;’ organizers wrote.”

There is nothing wrong with making demands on employers, but where is the call to unionize the entire retail and fast food industry “wall to wall”? **For city, area and nation-wide organizing committees to unionize low-wage retail and fast food workers! Fight for a union hiring hall! Revive the class struggle tactics that built the unions: for stewards on every job site for rank and file strike committees on every work site, for mass picket lines that no one crosses, solidarity and general strikes, and flying pickets! Appeal to truckers to hot-cargo goods that supply these stores! Organize the truckers and distribution centers! Smash Taft-Hartley and strike-breaking injunctions through mass struggle! No faith in the NLRB!** A union needs to appeal primarily to the workers to organize, to rely on their own independent strength and to mobilize workers power, not on a strategy of begging the bosses or their politicians or simply holding rallies to garner public support. What is needed are methods of struggle that shut down the industry not

only for one hour, as in Oakland, but until a contract and union rights and protections are won.

These low-wage workers that have come forward to fight are very courageous. However, many after engaging in isolated actions have faced retaliation by their boss who is often a whipsawed franchisee or low paid floor manager. Having a few or even less than the majority of workers walk out, despite the labor laws, is dangerous. There is no substitute for the mass activity of the workers. The union bureaucracy is irresponsibly betraying these workers by breeding illusions in “the right to form a union”, labor laws, the NLRB, and capitalist politicians. **Workers have always only had the right to organize whenever they have exercised that right and have had the power to enforce it.** And there will never be zero employer intimidation under capitalism, union or not! Anyone that has been a trade unionist knows this. This is the basic understanding that labor and capital have nothing in common. Labor laws and the NLRB are not going to defend workers rights beyond questions of contractual obligations and only defend workers rights to wages and hours. Retaliation by the boss needs to be met with solidarity actions by shutting it down. **An injury to one is an injury to all!**

As the [Guardian reported](#):

“Rose” works with an SEIU-backed drive focused on fast-food workers in federal buildings like the Smithsonian in Washington. She says organizers are mainly “training [workers] as spokespeople, gearing them up for these one-day strikes and training them to appear on camera, and return to work without any follow-up for a unionizing effort”. Rose charges that “propping them up as media spokespeople without guaranteeing any sort of long-term protection ... is very irresponsible and very hypocritical” as it puts them at risk of retaliation from their managers.

According to sources and internal SEIU documents obtained by [In These Times](#), the union does try to protect striking workers by having community leaders and elected officials accompany them back to their jobs the day after a strike. “Jason”, a worker in Chicago, says in the event workers are fired for union activity, which is illegal, SEIU vigorously defends them by picketing the employer and filing unfair labor practices. However, the preoccupation with the media undermines this aspect of organizing as well. Jason says at least in Chicago the union has not helped workers develop skills to prevent retaliation as “The strategy is to wait until [bosses] actually fire you because they can get more publicity. But it’s easier to keep your job instead of fighting to get it back.”

In the early 1930’s, Frank Ellis¹, an IWW member, along with Trotskyist militants in Austin, MN, organized the Independent Union of All Workers (IUAW) at the Hormel meat-packing plant through direct actions:

“Most of our strikes were sit-down, sit-down

right on the job and not do a damn bit of work until we got it settled... We had strikes every day. Hell, if a fellow farted crooked we would have strike about it.” – [Unionizing the Jungles](#), Shelton Stromquist/Marvin Bergman

The IUAW went on to organize “wall to wall”, much of the surrounding area, including even beauty salons, not just industrial plants. Organizing the low-wage workers will require these class struggle tactics. Also, given the transitory nature of the workforce, **a fight for a union hiring-hall for retail and fast food workers is crucial.** Class struggle will come up directly against the class collaborationist union bureaucracy, the capitalist state and their police, courts and anti-labor laws and the bosses’ Democratic Party, which is why a political understanding of the irreconcilable class line between labor and capital is necessary. Every strike needs to be organized and run with military precision: preparation, organization, education, mass democratic rank and file strike committee, organized pickets with elected strike leaders and captains, a strike paper, medical personnel, legal counsel, etc. This is far beyond the current AFL-CIO and Change to Win labor federation leaderships’ comprehension. **Millions for effective organizing not one penny for the Democrats! For the absolute independence from the Democrats!**

If we want to defend our unions, organize the unorganized and advance as a class, it will require a new workers leadership, not the class collaborationists of today. **Militant trade unionists should organize class struggle caucuses/committees within the labor movement to organize struggle and ‘refresh the leadership’.** And as opposed to a \$15 poverty wage, we need to fight for the historical demand of labor, which is a living wage as defined by the prevailing union rate.

- **For full union wages and 100% employer paid benefits for all workers with a 100% COLA! For Jobs for All! For 30 hours work for 40 hours pay! For a sliding scale of wages and hours! For labor organized wage and price committees.**
- **For free, quality, socialized healthcare for all!**
- **For a fighting workers/labor party that fights for a workers government as a US section of a fighting workers revolution-ary international!**

(Endnotes)

1 Frank Ellis had such contempt for the labor-fakers of the AFL craft unions that he would spit on the ground every time the AFL’s name was mentioned. AFL-CIO and Change to Win union leaderships are the labor skates of today.

International Labor Defense

An Injury to One is an Injury to All!
For International Working Class Defense of All Class War Prisoners
and Victims of Capitalist State Repression!

The CWG stands for the non-sectarian working class defense of class war prisoners and all the oppressed based upon the old Wobbly principle that “An Injury to One is an Injury to All!” We place no faith in the capitalist courts, government agencies or labor boards to achieve justice. We call for the united International Working Class in alliance with the oppressed to come to the defense of all victims of capitalist state repression with class struggle methods. This means not only union resolutions but mass labor mobilizations and political strikes.

Following is reprinted from the [Revolutionary Communist International Tendency \(RCIT\)](#):

For International Solidarity with the African and Asian Migrant Workers against the Saudi Government!



Against Racism, Islamophobia, Imperialism and Zionism – the Only Solution is Socialist Revolution!

Statement of the Internationalist Socialist League (ISL, Israeli/Palestinian section of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency), 14.11.2013, www.the-is-league.com and www.thecommunists.net, published at <http://www.the-is-league.com/solidarity-saudiyya-14-11-2013/>

During the past week, the Saudi government has begun a criminally violent crackdown against African illegal immigrants, mostly from Ethiopia, residing in the poor areas of the Saudi capital Riyadh. So far, at least 3 Ethiopian workers were killed and 68 injured in clashes between the police and migrant workers resisting or protesting their arrest. According to reports from Arab newspapers, about 20.000 migrants have been arrested until now, half of them women. Some reports suggest Saudi civilians armed with knives

and iron bars have joined the onslaught, claiming to protect their property from the rioters.[1] [2]

This campaign was started by the government after a 7 month amnesty period, during which all illegal migrant workers were required to either get sponsorship from a local employer or leave the country. Many migrant workers failed to comply with this demand due to bureaucratic obstacles, or refusing to subject themselves to employer extortion in exchange for said sponsorship. The Internationalist Socialist League (ISL) – the Israeli/Palestinian section of the Revolutionary Communist International Tendency (RCIT) wishes to strongly denounce the reactionary Saudi regime for this criminal attack on African workers, whose only crime was the desire to work and ensure the survival their families back in Africa.

The Saudi regime has been, ever since its inception, a close ally to the interests of the enemies of the Arab working masses in particular and humanity in general, from the British to US imperialism (as of late the Saudis have expressed great discontent over the US's refusal to launch a strike against Syria, and its overtures towards Iran[3]), Zionism[4] and even the Egyptian Military criminal regime. [5] This is neither its first nor its last crime against the working masses, unless the Arab spring will eventually be turned into a socialist revolution – the only solution to most forms of human oppression.

While Saudi-Arabia is not an imperialist country, it is an extremely rich and parasitic semi-colony which lives from a huge oil-rent and its close relationship with US imperialism. The Saudi capitalist class lives from the super-exploited labor of the migrants: about nine million migrant workers – mostly coming from poorer Arab and African countries as well as from India, Pakistan and Bangla-

desh – constitute the majority of the labor force in the country.

Under today's capitalism, migration as a source of cheap labor is a natural and essential part of the super-exploitation of the semi-colonial world by monopoly capitalism. Since the beginning of the crisis-ridden development of capitalism in the early 1970s and then particularly with the onset of globalization, migration has increased substantially. Revolutionary Communists consider migrant workers a nationally oppressed layer of working class which is super-exploited. An attack against them is an attack against every working man, woman or youth. Therefore, we must all unite in action and do the best that we can to stop this one.

The international workers movement and migrant organization need to build a solidarity campaign with the oppressed migrants in Saudi-Arabia. We are willing to collaborate in action with any individual or group who's willing to fight for the one or more of the following demands:

- * **Down with the Saudi campaign of barbarity against our African and Asian working brothers and sisters!**
- * **Full citizenship rights for all immigrants – regardless of what passport they hold and whether they are Saudi citizens or not!**
- * **Immediate legalization of all who are living illegal in Saudi Arabia and the immediate release of all detainees! Immediate removal of all legal sections for right to stay!**
- * **For equal pay for equal work and equality in the workplace! Abolition of all special laws for migrants!**
- * **Forward to an international working class solidarity campaign with our African and Asian migrant brothers and sisters!**

[1] Al Jazeera: Saudi police clash with foreign workers, 10.11.2013.

[2] Day 5 – Ethiopians in Saudi Arabia – Dozens injured, 10.11.2013.

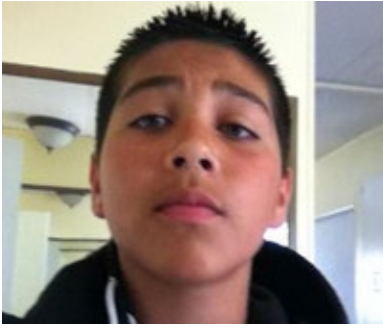
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JUSTICE FOR ANDY LOPEZ CRUZ – NO FAITH IN THE BOSSES’ COURTS, COPS, THE FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION OR THE BOSSES DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN POLITICIANS!



We hold the family and friends of Andy Lopez Cruz in our hearts. While family, friends, and community are dismayed by this blatant racist police murder; our hearts are broken by government officials who protect killer cops and subject our communities to murderous trigger-happy racists who do not protect and serve the people. The cops are only there to protect and serve the ruling class! Here in the Bay Area our families and youth embrace Andy Lopez and his family as one of our own. His murder is our loss and our experience here in Northern California in the black and brown communities is played out across the nation every 28 hours when cops kill one of our own.

In Vallejo, the cops shot Mario Ramirez in his car outside his house. In Oakland, Alan Blueford was hunted down by the racist thug officer Masso who shot himself in the leg and got away with the murder! We saw the cops shoot Oscar Grant in the back while unarmed and handcuffed and get away with it! They killed Kenneth Harding Jr. shooting him in the back for trying to ride the MUNI without paying his fare. Rahim Brown was killed by Oakland school cops for having a screwdriver in his car! The vigilante killing of Trayvon Martin enraged the nation and mobilized hundreds of thousands. But the racist killers, the “Gang in Blue” still patrol our communities and get away with murder! They must be removed from our streets!

After seeing the cops get off in the killings of Oscar Grant, we saw no prosecutions for the killings of Kenneth Harding or Rahim Brown. And George Zimmerman got off after hunting down Trayvon. We join the family and friends of Andy Lopez: WE Demand Justice!

We expect nothing from the bosses, the racist cops or their courts; just more of the same. They are just fronts for the politicians and the capitalist-0.1% they all serve! Those institutions exist to keep us down, not protect us! Only the multi-racial working class Labor, Black & Brown mass mobilizations, united strike actions, self Defense Guards and multi-racial workers’ Tribunals organized by the Labor movement can bring these racist murderers to justice.

Candle light vigils, police oversight commissions, ‘progressive’ politicians

alongside the inter-faith religious leaders only serve to keep the community actions limited to the acceptable participation in the very system designed by the capitalists to keep the working class and oppressed community down. WE NEED OUR OWN INSTITUTIONS TO GAIN JUSTICE!

NO FAITH IN THE BOSSES COURTS! FORM UP LABOR BLACK BROWN SELF DEFENSE GUARDS AND TRIBUNALS! BRING MURDERING RACIST COPS AND VIGILANTES TO JUSTICE! BUILD LABOR BLACK & BROWN STRIKE ACTIONS TO BRING THESE CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE!

TURN THE MOBILIZATION FOR JUSTICE INTO AND ORGANIZING MEETINGS FOR LABOR BLACK & BROWN SELF DEFENSE GUARDS & TRIBUNALS! BUILD STRIKE ACTIONS AGAINST RACIST MURDERS!

November 9, 2013

Marissa Alexander and “Stand your Ground”

Marissa Alexander, an African American Florida woman, sentenced to 20 years in prison in May of 2012, was recently released on bond. After pleading innocent to firing a warning shot at her angry estranged husband under Florida’s controversial “stand your ground” law, the jury found her guilty

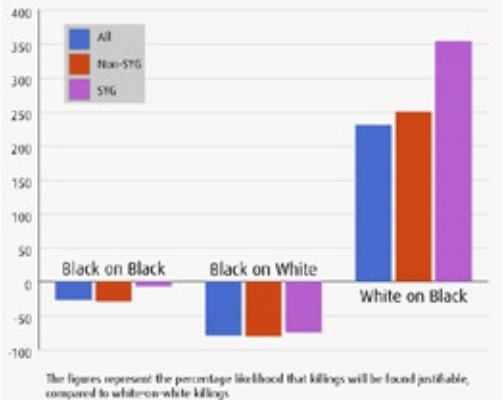
Stand you ground stems from the castle doctrine concept, where a person is permitted to use deadly force if they think they are being threatened within the confines of their home, without any legal recourse. Forty-six states now acknowledge, via castle doctrine legislation, that a person is not required to retreat if their home is attacked. Twenty two other states have extended this doctrine to include any place a person has a right to be. The concept being no person should have to retreat from a place they can legally be if confronted by an assailant.

This is a very old law. In fact “The Supreme Court of the United States ruled in *Beard v. U.S.*^[5] (1895) that a man who was “on his premises” when he came under attack and “... did not provoke the assault, and had at the time reasonable grounds to believe, and in good faith believed, that the deceased intended to take his life, or do him great bodily harm...was not obliged to retreat, nor to consider whether he could safely retreat, but was entitled to stand his ground.”⁶[7] ([wiki](#))

“John Roman, a senior fellow at the Urban Institute’s Justice Policy Center, analyzed a pool of 43,500 homicides by race in states with Stand Your Ground laws. Roman found that a greater number of homicides were found justified in Stand Your Ground states in all racial combinations, a result he believes is because those states yielded more killings overall.”

“Roman also found that Stand Your Ground laws tend to track the existing racial disparities

in homicide convictions across the U.S. — with one significant exception: *Whites who kill blacks in Stand Your Ground states are far more likely to be found justified in their killings (our emphasis.)* In non-Stand Your Ground states, whites are 250 percent more likely to be found justified in killing a black person than a white person who kills another white person; in Stand Your Ground states, that number jumps to 354 percent”. ([PBS’ Frontline 7/12](#))



Roman’s data is clear and viable. There is racial disparity in the application of stand your ground laws. So Marissa didn’t stand a chance on two counts. Given that the “Stand your ground” disparity mirrors the inequality in the culture at large, the fact that she was African American already put her at a disadvantage for a fair trial in general, and add to that Florida’s 10-20-life mandatory sentencing laws, she was nothing more than a sitting duck. Many advocacy groups have been fighting for her release (NAACP, domestic violence watch groups, etc.) She is out on bond for now.

The racist capitalist legal system is not reformable and cannot be made to work in the interests of the workers and oppressed. In its fundamentals it rests upon the lie of legal equality of classes which are social inequalities under capitalism. Underpinning this lie is the racist history of the United States in its material development, from chattel slavery to legal segregation to the racist de facto economic segregation of Blacks today. Marissa Alexander’s right to self-defense is supreme and the misapplication of the law that found George Zimmerman innocent of the murder of Trayvon Martin automatically sentenced Ms. Alexander to 20 years. Stand Your Ground laws are racist in conception as well as application. Previous to the rise of the ALEC, the castle laws dating from 1895 were universally regarded as adequate legal justification for armed self-defense.

Free Marissa Alexander! For the right of self-defense against domestic assault!

For the right of armed self-defense against racist terror!

Justice for Trayvon Martin and all victims of vigilante and racist cop terror!

What we Fight For

We fight to overthrow Capitalism

Historically, capitalism expanded world-wide to free much of humanity from the bonds of feudal or tribal society, and developed the economy, society and culture to a new higher level. But it could only do this by exploiting the labour of the productive classes to make its profits. To survive, capitalism became increasingly destructive of “nature” and humanity. In the early 20th century it entered the epoch of imperialism in which successive crises unleashed wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions. Today we fight to end capitalism’s wars, famine, oppression and injustice, by mobilising workers to overthrow their own ruling classes and bring to an end the rotten, exploitative and oppressive society that has exceeded its use-by date.

We fight for Socialism

By the 20th century, capitalism had created the pre-conditions for socialism –a world-wide working class and modern industry capable of meeting all our basic needs. The potential to eliminate poverty, starvation, disease and war has long existed. The October Revolution proved this to be true, bringing peace, bread and land to millions. But it became the victim of the combined assault of imperialism and Stalinism. After 1924 the USSR, along with its deformed offspring in Europe, degenerated back towards capitalism. In the absence of a workers political revolution, capitalism was restored between 1990 and 1992. Vietnam and China then followed. In the 21st century only North Korea survives as a degenerated workers state. We unconditionally defend the DPRK against capitalism and fight for political revolution to overthrow the bureaucracy as part of a world socialist revolution.

We fight to defend Marxism

While the economic conditions for socialism exist today, standing between the working class and socialism are political, social and cultural barriers. They are the capitalist state and bourgeois ideology and its agents. These agents claim that Marxism is dead and capitalism need not be exploitative. We say that Marxism is a living science that explains both capitalism’s continued exploitation and its attempts to hide class exploitation behind the appearance of individual “freedom” and “equality”. It reveals how and why the reformist, Stalinist and centrist misleaders of the working class tie workers to bourgeois ideas of nationalism, racism, sexism and equality. Such false beliefs will be exploded when the struggle against the inequality, injustice, anarchy and barbarism of capitalism in crisis, led by a revolutionary Marxist party, produces a revolutionary class-consciousness.

We fight for a Revolutionary Party

The bourgeoisie and its agents condemn the Marxist party as totalitarian. We say that without a democratic and a centrally organised party there can be no revolution. We base our beliefs on the revolutionary tradition of Bolshevism and Trotskyism. Such a party, armed with a transitional program, forms a bridge that joins the daily fight to defend all the past and present gains won from capitalism to the victorious socialist revolution. Defensive struggles for bourgeois rights and freedoms, for decent wages and conditions, will link up the struggles of workers of all nationalities, genders, ethnicities and sexual orientations, bringing about movements for workers control, political strikes and the arming of the working class, as necessary steps to workers’ power and the smashing of the bourgeois state. Along the way, workers will learn that each new step is one of many in a long march to revolutionize every barrier put in the path to their victorious revolution.

We fight for Communism

Communism stands for the creation of a classless, stateless society beyond socialism that is capable of meeting all human needs. Against the ruling class lies that capitalism can be made “fair” for all, that nature can be “conserved”, that socialism and communism are “dead”, we raise the red flag of communism to keep alive the revolutionary tradition of the Communist Manifesto of 1848, the Bolshevik-led October Revolution, the Third Communist International until 1924, and the revolutionary Fourth International up to its collapse into centrism, with the closing of the International Center. We fight to build a new Communist International, as a world party of socialism capable of leading workers to a victorious struggle for socialism.

Join us:

Where overthrowing capitalism is all in a days work !!!

Communist Workers Group – USA (CWG-US):

Email: cwgclasswar@gmail.com

Website: <http://cwgusa.wordpress.com/>

Class War (Paper of the CWG-US)

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Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe (RWG-ZIM)

Email: rwgzimbabwe@gmail.com

Website: www.rwgzimbabwe.wordpress.com

Revolutionary Worker (Paper of RWG-Zimbabwe)

Communist Workers Group-New Zealand/Aotearoa (CWG-NZ)

Email: cwg006@yahoo.com

Websites: <http://redrave.blogspot.com>

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